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HERITAGE STUDY • ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION

Arkansas • Illinois • Kentucky • Louisiana • Mississippi • Missouri • Tennessee

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LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION

Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee

SUMMARY

The Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study is one of the National Park Service's responses to sections 1103 and 1104 of Public Law 103-433 (Title XI - Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives - LMDR) and consists of two volumes. Volume I contains background information on the study area, legislative mandates, concepts, and management alternatives for conserving, managing, and using the heritage resources of the Delta. Volume I also analyzes the environmental consequences of the management alternatives. Volume II contains cultural, natural, recreational, and economic resource overviews as well as lists of national historic landmarks and districts, national natural landmarks, and data analysis on over 2,000 resources in the Delta. Together the volumes create a base of information from which Congress might make decisions regarding future planning and/or implementation strategies related to heritage preservation and heritage tourism initiatives in the Delta.

Beyond the scope of the study and not addressed are the requirements in section 1103 for preparing a "comprehensive recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan" for historic and tour routes described in the section. Neither does the study analyze whether certain portions of the Great River Road or the Old Antonio Road or Highway 84 should be designated as components of the national trails system.

The study area encompasses a large geographic area: part or all of seven states — Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. The study team worked closely with "experts", partners, and the public to develop "Stories of the Delta" — the people, places, and events that bring this region of the country to national attention. These stories form a complex yet cohesive picture of the Delta's natural, cultural, historic, and ancient resources. These "stories" form the basis for the document's ten concepts that offer possible configurations of resources that could aid resource preservation efforts and enhance the visitor experience in the Delta.

The document also presents four management strategies for conserving, managing, and using the Delta's heritage resources. Together with the concepts presented, the management alternatives give Congress a range of options for implementing sections 1103 and 1104 of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives legislation. The alternatives also suggest viable alternatives for establishing heritage tourism initiatives in the Delta for federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations. The 10 concepts and four management alternatives are summarized below:

CONCEPTS

Comprehensive Concept: Stories of the Delta

This concept would illustrate the interrelationships between all the "Stories of the Delta" and the historic sites, museums, festivals, and natural areas that could be organized to preserve, protect, and present to visitors the rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage of the Delta.

Concept 1: Natural Resources — The Heart of the Delta

This concept would inspire visitors and residents to focus on the magnitude, diversity, and importance of the changing natural systems that have drawn so many generations to settle in the Delta.

Concept 2: Transforming the Mississippi River: Manipulating the Mississippi River System to Facilitate Navigation and Manage Flood Flows

This concept would convey, through the use of tour routes and various destinations in the Delta, the Mississippi River's impact upon the Lower Mississippi Delta Region, specifically

SUMMARY

the geophysical evolution of the river system, the manipulation of the river system to manage flood flows and facilitate navigation, and the river towns that reflect the region's diverse cultures.

Concept 3: New Madrid Earthquakes/ Seismic Zone Tour Route

This concept would establish an auto tour route to both illustrate the impact of the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812, which were unique geological occurrences that dramatically altered the area's topography, and to explore the implications of this active seismic zone for the lower Mississippi Delta region today.

Concept 4: The People: Encountering the Cultural Diversity of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region

This concept would illustrate, through the use of existing facilities and activities, opportunities for visitors to experience the richness of the history, the complexity of social and cultural interactions, and the historic sites, festivals, and other celebrations of cultural diversity in the Delta.

Concept 5: American Indian Heritage in the Delta

This concept would begin to identify the stories and resources related to American Indian heritage in the Delta. Section 1104 of the Delta Initiatives legislation calls for recommendations for establishing a Native American heritage corridor and cultural center in the Delta. This concept lays some of the ground work toward implementing section 1104.

Concept 6: African-American Heritage in the Delta

As described in concept 5, concept 6 would lay groundwork for the implementation of section 1104 of the Delta Initiatives legislation,

which calls for recommendations for establishing an African-American heritage corridor and cultural center in the Delta.

By using a "hub-and-spoke" configuration to identify the stories and resources related to African-American heritage in the Delta, this configuration enables a comprehensive presentation of the people, events, and places important for understanding the evolution of the Delta's African-American culture and communities. Major interpretive centers (museums, visitor centers, or community centers) would serve as hubs where visitors would be introduced to the broad spectrum of African-American life in the Delta and would then be directed to "spoke" sites — other museums, historic sites, and/or communities that would give an in-depth interpretation of one or more African-American stories found in the Delta.

Concept 7: The Civil War in the Lower Mississippi Delta

This concept would illustrate that the "Lower Mississippi River Valley was the most critical theater of the Civil War." Visitors would be oriented to the variety of resources that recall the strategies that were planned, the men, women, and children whose lives were changed, and the battles that occurred during the nation's conflict with itself.

Concept 8: Delta Blues Commemorative Area

Like concepts 5 and 6, concept 8 would supply a base of information for implementation of section 1104 of the Delta Initiatives legislation which calls for recommendations for establishing a Delta music program with heavy emphasis on the blues. A commemorative area configuration would use the existing system of state welcome centers to introduce visitors to the history of the blues and would direct them to sites/resources important to the development of the blues. This would enable visitors and residents to better understand the connections between the landscape, the culture of the Delta,

and most importantly, why the blues originated in the Delta.

Concept 9: Celebrating Delta Agriculture

This concept would illustrate the important role the development of agriculture and agricultural practices have played in the evolution of social and economic systems of the Delta and their impacts on the nation

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A: Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Tourism Initiative

This alternative would establish a Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Partnership to coordinate, plan, fund, and implement a regional tourism strategy for the Delta. Drawing on recommendations from the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, this heritage partnership would promote and market the Delta as a major travel destination, focusing on the natural, cultural, and historical heritage of the region.

The partnership would have the authority, through federal legislation, to receive federal funds. These funds would require a match of in-kind services and/or financial support. Funding would be for planning, set-up, coordination among various entities, and seed money for implementation of projects. Federal funding would be provided for a 10-year period at a cost not to exceed \$500,000 per year or \$5 million total.

Alternative B: Lower Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area

This alternative is offered in response to the Delta Initiatives legislation, which calls for recommendations for heritage corridors with cultural centers. While the National Heritage Area concept is viable, as long as there is strong local support, the study team acknowledges that it has never really been tried on such a large scale. Coordination and coopera-

tion across state boundaries, as well as local buy-in would be critical to its success.

Under this management approach, a Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Commission would be created through enactment of federal legislation. This Deltawide entity would be established to oversee, coordinate, provide direction, and guide the development of a comprehensive information and orientation network, an interpretation and education program, a historical and cultural preservation program, a natural resource conservation and education program, and a tourism economic development/marketing initiative. Leadership would be provided at the federal level with extensive involvement at all levels of state and local government, educational institutions, the private sector, and interested groups and individuals.

Federal funding for commission activities, including salaries, planning, and implementation could be up to \$1.5 million per year, not to exceed 10 years. It is recognized that current funding levels for existing heritage areas is not this high, however, the large geographic area and increased coordination and communication efforts would warrant this larger funding amount.

Alternative C: Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Centers

In their final report to the president and Congress in 1990, the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission made recommendations for the creation and development of centers for the preservation of the cultural, historical, and literary heritage of the Delta region. This alternative, based on the commission's recommendations and sections 1103 and 1104 of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives legislation proposes the establishment of seven heritage/cultural centers in the Delta region. A heritage/cultural center would be located in each state of the study area (southern Illinois, southeastern Missouri, western Kentucky, western Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana) and would

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focus on interpreting the "Stories of the Delta" as represented in this study's 10 concepts.

A Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Center Task Force would be established to oversee the project. Once funds were appropriated by Congress, the secretary of the interior, as chair of the task force, would be responsible for planning, design, and construction of the seven centers. Once the centers were completed and interpretive media and exhibits were in place, the centers would become the responsibility of each state to staff, manage, and maintain.

Congress would authorize and appropriate funds for the planning, design, and construction of the seven heritage centers. Land and/or structures would be donated by the states. In recognition of budgetary constraints and fiscal limitations for federal funding, a maximum of \$3 million in federal dollars per heritage/cultural center would be expended for this alternative. This money might be allocated in one of several ways, including: grants to states, matching fund requirements by the states, or a turnkey project by the National Park Service where the agency would complete the project and turn over long-term operation and management of the centers to the individual states. For any of these options federal funding would still remain \$3 million per center.

Alternative D: Sharing Delta Heritage in the 21st Century

This alternative proposes establishing a Delta Heritage Information Network to disseminate information about the rich legacy of the Delta locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. By using the Internet, interactive computer programs, and CD technology, a two tract approach to heritage preservation would

be initiated. The first tract would focus on education programs to reach children and adults alike in the Delta. The second tract would include heritage tourism initiatives geared toward national and international visitors. In this alternative technology would become the vehicle for stimulating heritage tourism and augmenting educational programs in the Lower Mississippi Delta for the 21st century and beyond.

A Delta Heritage Information Center would be established to set up and implement the heritage information network. The center would be responsible for organizing, staffing, and implementing the network. The center would work closely with the region's universities and colleges to identify and utilize subject matter experts in Delta history, natural resources, folkways, and heritage preservation. This alternative could be implemented as a stand-alone approach or in concert with any of the previous three alternatives.

The Delta Heritage Information Center would receive federal funding for five years for organization and implementation of the network. Cost to the federal government would be approximately \$1,365,000 over five years. Funding would include initial equipment purchase, staffing, and a contract for web page design for the first year and maintenance of the system for five years (\$545,000) as well as for the production of multimedia products over the same five-year period (\$820,000). The center would develop a 10-year strategic plan for continuing the network's ongoing projects and programs in the private sector, perhaps through a private/nonprofit organization beyond the initial federal investment.

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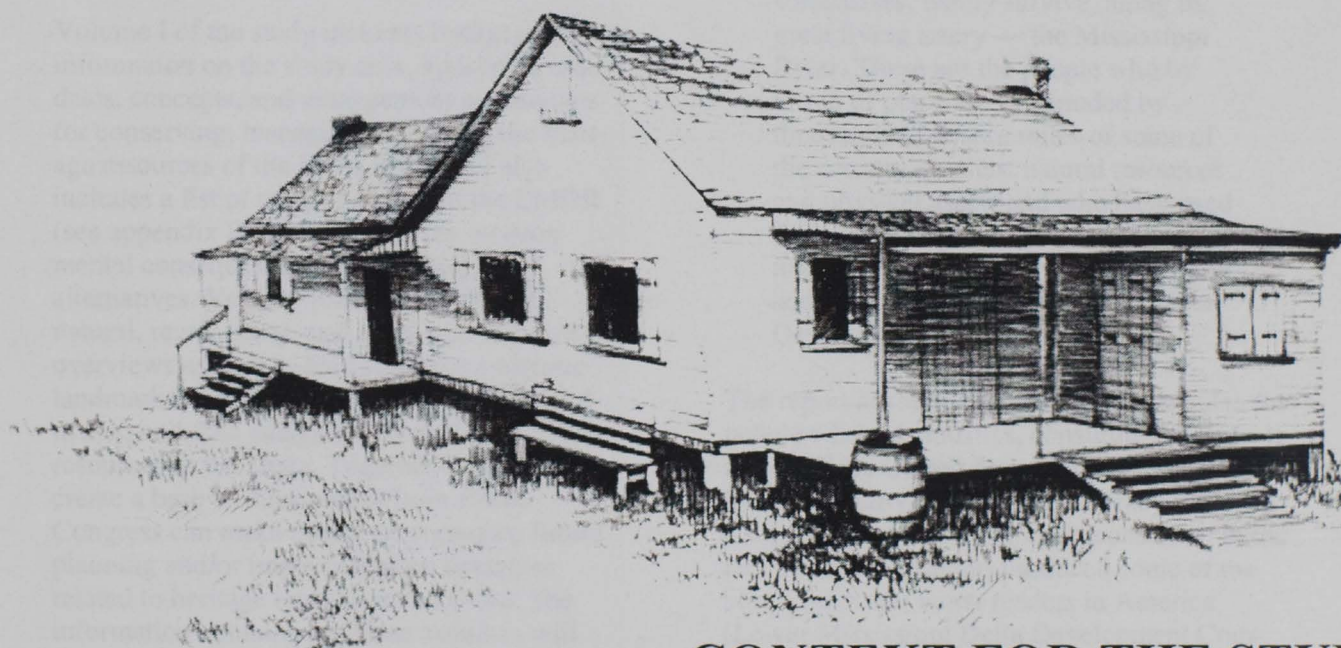
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CONTEXT FOR THE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

This is volume I of a two-volume heritage study of the Lower Mississippi Delta (the Delta) region. Stretching from just north of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, and Fort DeChartre, Illinois, to the mouth of the Mississippi below New Orleans, the study area is vast and is home to some of North America's richest natural resources. In addition the region's diverse and complex cultural history and heritage have helped shape our national character. From the Mound building civilizations of the Mississippian period to the modern architecture of Memphis, Jackson, and New Orleans, and from "King Cotton" of the 19th century to the Delta blues of the 20th century, the Delta has been at the forefront of national trade, settlement, political agendas, and social struggles. This heritage study presents several concepts for preserving and presenting to visitors different combinations of heritage resources across the region. These combinations would help preserve for future generations the rich natural and cultural heritage of a truly unique region of the nation.

Volume I of the study includes background information on the study area, legislative mandates, concepts, and management alternatives for conserving, managing, and using the heritage resources of the Delta. Volume I also includes a list of parallel efforts in the LMDR (see appendix B) and analyzes the environmental consequences of the management alternatives. Volume II contains cultural, natural, recreational, and economic resource overviews as well as lists of national historic landmarks and districts, national natural landmarks, and data analysis on over 2,000 resources in the Delta. Together the volumes create a base of information from which Congress can make decisions regarding future planning and/or implementation strategies related to heritage tourism in the Delta. The information contained in these volumes will also be available to state and local agencies in the study area as well as heritage tourism and/or preservation or other interested groups, organizations, or residents.

BACKGROUND

Congress established the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission (LMDDC) in October 1988 to study and make recommendations regarding economic needs, problems, and opportunities in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (LMDR), and to develop a 10-year economic plan for the region. In the commission's final report (May 1990) recommendations were made regarding health, education, housing, community development, agriculture, public infrastructure, entrepreneurial development, and technology, business, and industrial development. The commission also identified tourism, cultural resource preservation, and environmental protection as key elements to economic success in the region.

The commission's report told the compelling story of the people who dwell at the very heart of the nation:

These are the people who thrive, or in some cases, barely survive, along its great living artery — the Mississippi River. These are the people who by virtue of place are surrounded by thousands of square miles of some of the country's richest natural resources and physical assets and who have used their sense of place to develop a cultural and historical heritage that is rich and unique (Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission 1989).

The report acknowledged that these are also the people who, by statistics, constitute the poorest region of the United States — jobs are scarce, infant mortality is high, and illiteracy reigns as a supreme piece of irony as demonstrated in the fact that the region has produced some of the best writers and worst readers in America (Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission 1989).

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

One of the results of the commission's report was passage on October 31, 1994, of title XI - Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives (Delta Initiatives) (PL 103-433). The Delta Initiatives established a comprehensive and ambitious program, especially in an era of government downsizing and federal budget deficits. Sections 1103 and 1104 of the Delta Initiatives are summarized below.

Section 1103. Prepare and transmit to Congress within three years a study of significant natural, recreational, and cultural resources in the Delta region. This study would cover such topics as transportation routes (roads, trails, and waterways), vehicular tour routes, the Great River Road, routes commemorating the timber industry, and comprehensive recreation planning. A list of potential national historic landmarks would also be developed.

Section 1104. Prepare a plan within three years after funds are made available that establishes a Delta Region Native American heritage corridor and cultural Center; a Delta Region African-American heritage corridor and cultural center; and a music heritage program with specific emphasis on the Delta blues. This plan would also propose a network of heritage sites, structures, small museums, and festivals in the Delta region and make recommendations for grants to small, emerging, minority or rural museums. Technical assistance and needs assessments would also be provided.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

A part of the National Park Service's response to the Delta Initiatives has been the preparation of this Phase I Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study. The purpose of the study is to provide guidance to Congress for implementing sections 1103 and 1104 of the legislation. In response to section 1103 the study presents a broad overview of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the study area and

presents, based on the important people, places, and events of the Delta, possible combinations of heritage sites, museums, rural sites, and festivals that could enhance heritage tourism and resource preservation in the region. In addition the study includes a large data base inventory of natural, cultural, and recreational resources including a list of national historic landmarks and districts and national natural landmarks found in the study area.

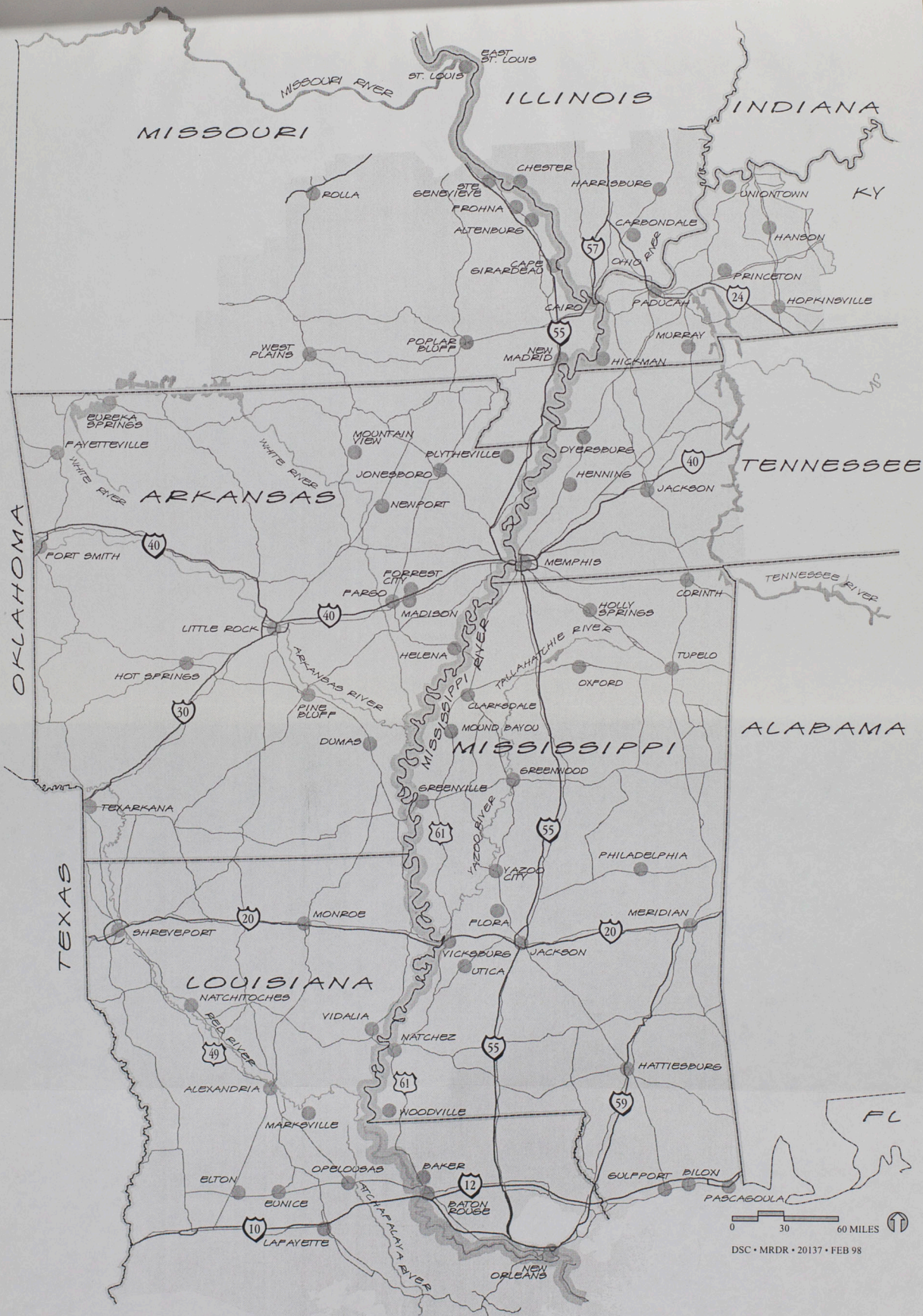
The heritage study lays some groundwork for implementation of section 1104 of the Delta Initiatives. Concepts 5 and 6 present resource combinations for preserving and presenting to visitors the important American Indian and African-American heritages of the Delta. Concept 8 presents a blues commemorative area within the Delta that would highlight the world renown music form that had its beginnings in the Delta.

Finally the heritage study presents several alternatives for organizing and managing the region's rich combinations of heritage resources and analyzes the environmental consequences of the alternatives. The information in this heritage study will serve as a foundation for subsequent studies, plans, grants, programs, and other actions to enhance the quality of life in the Delta and to preserve the region's rich heritage.

Beyond the scope of this study are the requirements in section 1103 for preparing a "comprehensive recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan" for historic and tour routes described in the section. Neither does the study analyze whether certain portions of the Great River Road or the Old Antonio Road or Highway 84 should be designated as components of the national trails system.

THE STUDY AREA/DELTA ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW

As defined by the Delta Initiatives the study area encompasses all or part of seven states and 308 counties and parishes. This area includes all of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi; 29 counties in southeast Missouri; 16 counties in



*Lower Mississippi
Delta Region*

HERITAGE STUDY

STUDY AREA

southern Illinois; 21 counties in western Kentucky; and 21 counties in western Tennessee (see the Study Area map). For the most part it is bound together by its ties to the Mississippi River drainage system; however, there are portions of the study area in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas that are outside the direct influence of the Mississippi River. The 1994 legislation, under which this heritage study has been prepared, added to the LMDC's original study area by requiring that states with more than 50 percent of their geographic area encompassed by the Delta Region be included. The primary focus of this heritage study has been on the areas of the original LMDC's work while acknowledging the importance of the geographic, social, and natural influences of the additional counties of the legislatively defined region.

As is true with any politically delineated study area, the Delta region encompasses much more than the boundaries by which it is defined. The Lower Mississippi Delta is a vast and vital part of the American landscape. This broad, alluvial valley reaches from southern Illinois to the southeastern tip of Louisiana. The Delta's 90,000 miles of rivers and streams cover some 3 million acres, dictating much of the region's landscape and land use.

The Delta provides habitat and ecological support for a wide variety of flora, fauna, and aquatic species. The Mississippi River forms the most important bird and waterfowl migration corridor on the continent. The Mississippi flyway is one of the four major migration routes for bird species in the United States. The flyway provides breeding areas and wintering grounds for numerous bird species including 20% of the duck species found in the U.S. and substantial numbers of cranes, geese, swans, hawks, falcons, and neotropical birds.

The river bottoms comprise North America's largest wetland area and bottom land hardwood forest. Taken together the forests and wetlands cover approximately 5.5 million acres of the study area. In addition to the bottom land forests in the Delta a variety of upland forests, both deciduous and coniferous are found in the Delta's hills and elevated tracts.

Further, the Mississippi River's role as a major transporter of goods and people has long distinguished the region's history and character. Since the earliest days of human habitation the Mississippi River has provided a convenient and economic avenue for transportation, communication, and commerce for residents of the corridor.

The river promoted trade, and the fertile land facilitated the rise of agriculture. The Delta's renowned agricultural productivity is a direct reflection of the fertile alluvial soils, the temperate climate (average temperature between 54-65 degrees F), and the extended growing season (200-340 frost free days per year). 55-60% of the Delta's land area is utilized as cropland and produces much of the nation's soybeans, rice, sugar cane, various feed grains, and cotton.

The Delta's natural resources also gave rise to extractive industries like salt, timber, and oil and gas. The river has also facilitated the growth of recreation and tourism activities as major contributors to the region's economic base.

The Delta's cultural traditions are as rich and diverse as its natural resources. This is a land of converging cultures with a unique complexity and density of history, antiquity, and cultural expression. Archeological sites across the Delta attest to the thousands of years of human presence in the Delta. Over the centuries American Indians, French, Arab, Spanish, African, German, English, Irish, Scots-Irish, Jewish, Italian, Chinese, Mexican, and Southeast Asian people have established and maintained their distinctive ethnic identities. Often these cultures intermingled to form discreet, new cultural expressions, such as Creole culture, found only in the Delta.

Millions of travelers visit the Delta each year and provide over \$17 billion in direct revenue to counties and parishes. Nearly three hundred thousand jobs are travel-related with a payroll of over \$3 billion. Heritage tourism development, which seeks to expand and revitalize urban and rural economic development opportunities through the preservation, management,

and utilization of natural, historic, and cultural resources for future generations, has been recognized as an opportunity to improve a segment of the economy by training and employing local residents in new ways.

Despite its many resource advantages, rich cultural heritage, and growing tourism industry, the Lower Mississippi Delta Region remains a depressed area economically. In 1990 Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi had higher unemployment rates and greater levels of people living in poverty than the rest of the nation. In Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee, 80 of 87 Delta region counties had higher unemployment rates than the rest of the U.S. Eighty-four counties had a greater percentage of people living in poverty.

METHODOLOGY

The study team was faced with the task of completing an inventory and analysis of natural, cultural, and recreational resources within an area that encompasses parts or all of seven states and 308 counties and parishes and to make recommendations as called for in the LMDR legislation.

Seeking first the important stories or themes of the Delta, the team uncovered the important people, places, and events that make the Delta worthy of national attention. Using the National Park Service's recently revised "Thematic Framework," historical topics important to understanding this complex region of the country began to emerge. Once the "Stories of the Delta" were identified and analyzed an inventory and analysis of the sites (museums, historic sites and structures, and other places) where those stories could be or are already being told was completed.

The concepts presented in this study reflect the important "Stories of the Delta" and the sites where those stories could best be told.

A key to the success of this study has been the close working relationships forged among state, local, and federal agencies; private/nonprofit organizations; academic institutions; communi-

ties; individuals; groups living in the Delta and interested in its future and National Park Service (NPS) personnel. Extensive public involvement through public meetings, newsletters, and an Internet web site has been an integral part of ensuring that the completion of the heritage study reflects a collaborative effort.

The following summary describes the three-step process used to complete the heritage study:

Step 1: Stories (Thematic Framework)

Symposium. On June 4, 5, and 6, 1996, 25 experts on the people, history, culture, economy, and natural environment of the Lower Mississippi Delta gathered in Memphis, Tennessee. They were asked to identify the key stories and some of the sites that make this region of the country worthy of national recognition and attention.

The primary product of the symposium was a framework of stories, or themes, that form a complex yet cohesive picture of the Delta's natural, cultural, historical, and ancient resources and are contained in the report entitled *Stories of The Delta: Symposium Findings*. This resultant thematic framework has served as the foundation for developing the "Stories of the Delta" (see page 10) and is the basis for the concepts presented in the study.

Public Participation. Through newsletters, public meetings, and an Internet Web page, the study team solicited additional input on stories and resources from federal, state, and local governments and agencies and local residents. More than 700 people across the Delta responded to requests for stories, sites, and comments, while the mailing list for the study includes more than 3,000 names. In addition to public meetings, newsletters, and a Web page, the study team met with representatives of American Indian and African-American communities in the Delta to discuss ways of meeting the intent of section 1104 of the LMDR initiatives legislation.

Meetings With American Indian

Representatives. During the course of the study, the team held meetings with the Delta's federally recognized tribes. The tribes were introduced to the study and given the opportunity to add stories important to American Indians in the Delta and to offer recommendations for implementing section 1104 (Native American Heritage Corridor and Cultural Center) of the legislation.

In addition to meeting with tribes in the Delta, the National Park Service held a meeting in Quapaw, Oklahoma, with federally recognized tribes that have historic ties to the Delta region. Again, tribal representatives were given an introduction to the heritage study and its purpose. They were also given the opportunity to add to the stories about American Indians in the Delta and were asked for their recommendations related to section 1104. (The reports on those meetings can be found in volume II, appendix E.)

African-American Heritage Preservation

Workshops. Six meetings took place with representatives from African-American communities throughout the Delta. The first meeting was held in August 1995 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with another in Alexandria in December 1996. In March and April 1997, four additional meetings were held in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. People at these meetings were asked to tell stories about the Delta as they relate to African-American heritage. Participants were also asked to indicate which sites/resources would be appropriate to include in an African-American heritage corridor and cultural center as outlined in section 1104 of the LMDR initiatives legislation. The reports from those meetings can be found in volume II, appendix F.)

Step 2: Data Collection/Analysis

Once the important stories of the Delta were identified, the study team collected data on sites related to those stories. The sites were analyzed according to their story representation, integrity (current and future), and their level of national importance (i.e., do they represent a diversity of the national character, are they part of a nationally distinctive landscape, and do they represent an important part of the national experience?).

In addition to the study team's data collection and analysis efforts, the National Park Service contracted with the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities to conduct a museum survey (volume II, appendix A) to determine what stories are already being interpreted and presented to visitors at museums in the study area. The National Park Service also contracted with the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi to conduct a survey of sites in the Delta related to its stories other than national register, national natural, or national historic landmark sites (see volume II, appendixes G and H).

Step 3: Findings/Concepts

The concepts presented in this study represent possible configurations of heritage sites, museums, parks, festivals, and natural areas that could be used to present the "Stories of the Delta" for residents and visitors in the Delta. It is important to reiterate that the information gathered from Delta residents at various public meetings, African-American heritage preservation workshops, meetings with Native Americans, as well as the responses to the project's two newsletters were vital in developing the concepts. The conceptual representations reflect a truly collaborative effort between the planning team and the Delta's agencies, organizations, and residents.

STORIES OF THE DELTA

On June 4, 5, and 6, 1996, 25 experts on the people, history, culture, economy, and natural environment of the Lower Mississippi Delta gathered in Memphis, Tennessee. Their purpose was to identify key stories and some of the sites that make this region of the country worthy of national recognition and attention. A broad-ranging content and collaborative spirit were generated at the Lower Mississippi Delta Symposium and became the heart of the "Stories of the Delta" presented here. Throughout the heritage study process, the team worked closely with these "experts", various regional partners, and the public to affirm and enhance the work accomplished at that first meeting in Memphis.

The "Stories of the Delta" — the people, places, and events that bring this region of the country to national attention — form a complex yet cohesive picture of the Delta's natural, cultural, historic, and ancient resources. These are the stories or themes related to the Delta that visitors and residents alike should understand to appreciate the impact this region has had on the formation of our national character. The stories, combined with the appropriate sites and resources to tell the stories, form the basis for the concepts found in this heritage study.

THE RIVER

The physical presence and historical development of the Mississippi River are fundamental stories of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. The river is the defining feature that touches all aspects of life in the Delta — settlement patterns, agriculture, music, art, literature, architecture, and the economy.

For thousands of years the Great River and its tributaries have constructed, destroyed, and redefined the physical landscape of the Delta. The river challenged human inhabitants to harness its wildness and harvest its great bounty.

Dynamic geologic and human processes changed the river over time:

- Ice-Age conditions braided the river 18,000 years ago. A mere 5,000 years ago natural forces set it on its meandering path creating a nutrient rich landscape.
- Agriculture flourished in the rich alluvial sediments laid down by the river over the centuries.
- Successive human attempts to control the river's power and path created conflicts between natural and human processes.
- America has long used the Mississippi River system as a major transportation and migration corridor - from goods shipped to interior as well as international markets to the thousands of poor farm laborers and their families who migrated to the industrial centers of the north.
- The river influenced human settlement patterns, uniting as well as dividing.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Human interaction with the Delta environment varied with the diverse cultural groups that inhabited the region. Prehistoric hunting practices and settlement patterns were the first human influences on the Delta's landscape. To a greater or lesser degree successive generations of people manipulated the Delta landscape to make the land inhabitable and to exploit its rich and abundant natural resources for trade and commerce.

- The building of dams, levees, and locks altered, and in some cases, eliminated the natural shoreline, wetlands, and hardwoods and contributed to the human occupation of the landscape.

- The Flood of 1927 was the largest hydrologic event of this century. It signaled the end of a levee system's ability to control floods.
- Farming, agricultural mechanization, pesticide use, lumbering, manufacturing, and other practices led to erosion problems and water pollution.
- The environmental awareness that began in the 1970s positively influenced floodway improvements, levee construction, clean water issues, and wetlands preservation.
- The effect of technology on the human environment, such as air conditioning, changed living conditions for everyone.

DELTA CULTURES

The story of the Delta is the story of its people and its rich cultural heritage. The convergence of Native, European, African, Caribbean, Asian, and many other cultures to the Delta resulted in a complex and multilayered society.

- The Delta's earliest inhabitants left evidence of 14,000 years of human life that preceded the arrival of Europeans. Mound sites can still be seen throughout the Delta, though the preservation of many are threatened.
- Native American peoples have a vital and distinct Delta story. Native American cultures adapted and survived despite interaction and conflicts with non-native cultures, e.g., exposure to disease to which they had no immunity and the Indian removal policies of the 1830s. Native people had vital governments, economies, social structures, and trade networks long before Europeans arrived in the Delta.
- The legacy of African-Americans in the Delta is rich and varied. Once an enslaved people, their labor built much of the plantation architecture visitors see

today. But slavery is only part of the story of African-Americans in the Delta. Art, literature, science, technology, and music reflect the diversity of contributions African-Americans made to the region's and nation's rich cultural heritage.

- The Delta tells a story of the survival of the working poor, labor/work patterns, family life, religion, spiritual expression, and the "spirit of the cultures," such as humor, hospitality, storytelling, and gentility.
- Immigration, whether voluntary or forced, brought peoples of a variety of cultural backgrounds, such as African-Americans and Acadians, to the Delta.

CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

The Lower Mississippi Delta is known worldwide for its richness of cultural expression. The blues and zydeco were born in the Delta, and gospel, ragtime, rhythm & blues, rock & roll, and country music flourished there. Delta art, architecture, folk art, and food reflect the adaptations of many people to the Delta's physical environment and are an expression of their native or original roots, which gives the region a special sense of place.

- Music is a language that interprets life in the Lower Mississippi Delta in a way that no other mode of expression can. Delta music has had a significant impact on musical forms around the world.
- Delta architecture reflects the region's diverse cultural influences. French and Spanish influences are especially visible in New Orleans, while formal Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and Italianate Revival "Villa" styles and African influences can be found in many areas.
- Plantation architecture, including spatial relationships between the large, classically proportioned plantation houses, slave quarters, and out buildings, is the

most visible symbol of the antebellum south when cotton was king.

- The Delta's literature and art reflect a strong sense of place. The land, water, and climate form the background for much of the Delta's art and literature expressions. Kinship, family, tragedy, melodrama, and class differences have long given rise to written expression in the Delta.
- Food is a primary form of cultural expression and is readily apparent throughout the Lower Mississippi Delta.
- The blending of cultures throughout the region is reflected in food, folkart, and literature.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INFLUENCES

Social and economic systems, political movements, and government policies have a long history of shaping life in the Delta. Trade patterns, social and political institutions, and warfare of mound-building peoples predate Europeans by many centuries. The struggles caused by European migration and settlement, slavery, Native American removal, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Civil Rights movement are only the most recent reflections of human interaction within the Mississippi River Delta.

- The Delta's earliest inhabitants established trade networks, fought for control of vital resources, and built fortifications to protect themselves.
- European political and social practices disrupted and altered Native American cultures and eventually forced them from their homelands. In addition European diseases decimated tribes across the Delta.
- Slavery, the underground railroad, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Segregation, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Civil Rights movement are key stories of national

impact in the Delta. The Delta attracted national attention during the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s. Local African-American churches were the springboards for civil rights actions. The civil rights movement also turned the region into a political stronghold for the Democratic national party.

- The struggle to close the gaps between racial, ethnic, cultural, and economic differences has a long history in the Delta that continues today. The challenges of the 21st century require developing a greater capacity to pursue development goals within a multi cultural, global economy.

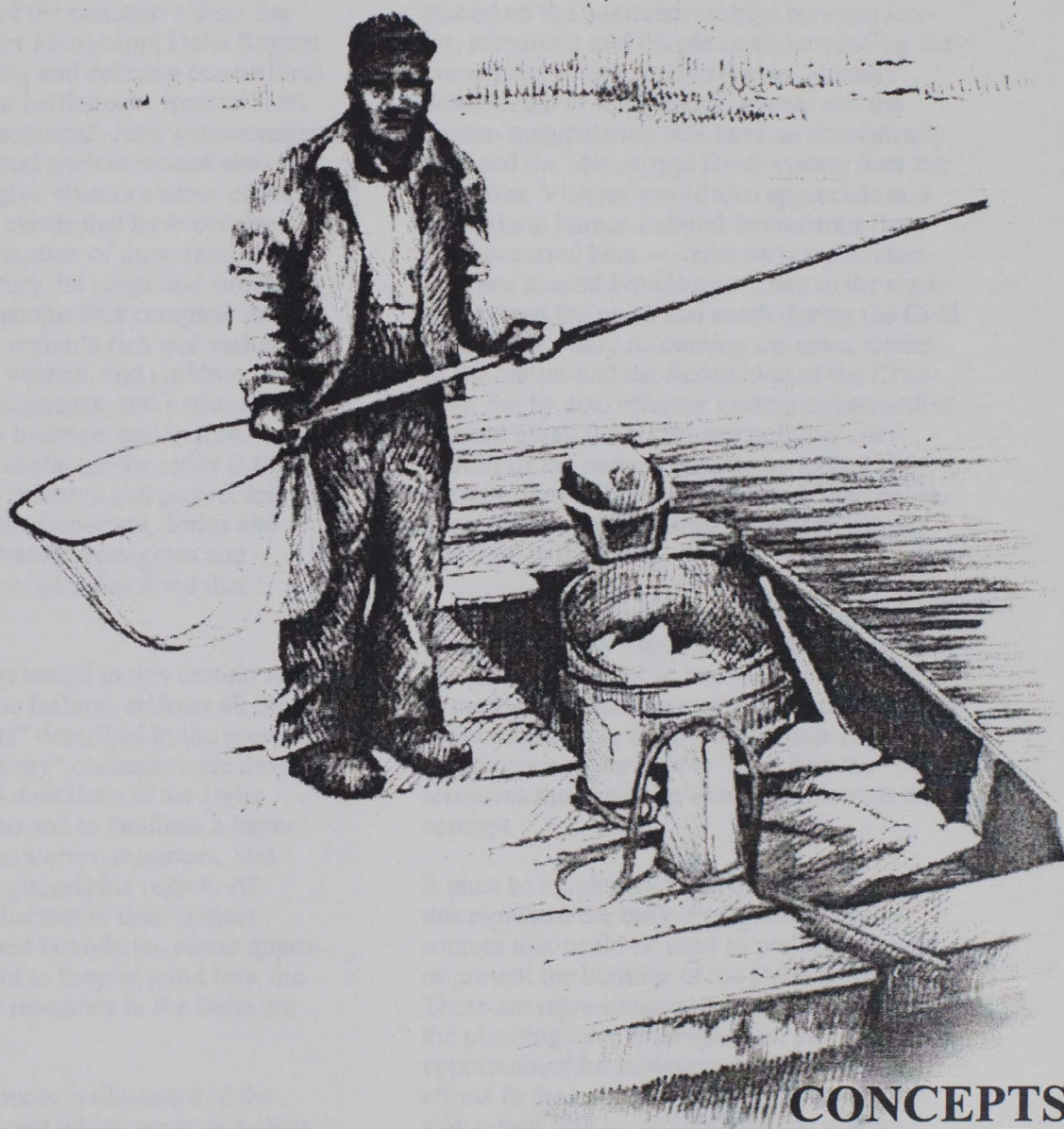
THE DELTA AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

The Mississippi River system ties the region together economically. America has long used the river system as a major transportation corridor for shipping goods to international markets, as well as supplying goods to the interior of the country. The river's value to the agricultural and petrochemical economies of the Delta and the nation is preeminent.

- Cotton was the mainstay of the region's economy for more than 150 years. This single crop, with its roots secure in the rich alluvial soil, has had an impact on markets around the world. It was cotton grown in the Delta that supplied the textile markets of England and New England which, in turn, perpetuated the slave labor system of the South. Soybeans, corn and rice cultivation, timbering, oil refining, and the chemical industry helped diversify the region's economy.
- Since 1950 technology has continued to decrease labor requirements for traditional crops — cotton, corn, rice, and soybeans — resulting in a high number of displaced workers.

- The Delta tells the story of the survival of the working poor. There is a dignity in labor in the Delta reflected in the ways people define and sustain themselves, which can be observed in neighborhood gardens, in folk art, and crafts.
- Travel and tourism is becoming another major industry in the Delta and the nation. As the number one industry of the late 20th century, travel and tourism can be a vehicle to stimulate the economies of the Lower Mississippi Delta.

The concepts are presented in the form of a series of questions and answers. The first question is "What is the difference between a 'good' and a 'bad' idea?" The answer is "A 'good' idea is one that is based on facts and logic, while a 'bad' idea is one that is based on emotion and opinion." The second question is "How can we tell if an idea is good or bad?" The answer is "We can tell by looking at the evidence and the logic behind the idea." The third question is "What are some examples of good ideas?" The answer is "Examples of good ideas include the invention of the airplane, the development of the computer, and the discovery of penicillin." The fourth question is "What are some examples of bad ideas?" The answer is "Examples of bad ideas include the belief in witchcraft, the idea of slavery, and the theory of a flat Earth." The fifth question is "How can we avoid bad ideas?" The answer is "We can avoid bad ideas by being open-minded and willing to consider new evidence and logic." The sixth question is "What are some ways to test an idea?" The answer is "We can test an idea by conducting experiments, gathering evidence, and seeking feedback from others." The seventh question is "What are some ways to improve an idea?" The answer is "We can improve an idea by refining it, adding more detail, and seeking feedback from others." The eighth question is "What are some ways to communicate an idea?" The answer is "We can communicate an idea by writing, speaking, and using visual aids." The ninth question is "What are some ways to implement an idea?" The answer is "We can implement an idea by creating a plan, gathering resources, and taking action." The tenth question is "What are some ways to evaluate an idea?" The answer is "We can evaluate an idea by comparing it to other ideas, assessing its impact, and seeking feedback from others." The book concludes with a final question: "What is the most important thing to remember about ideas?" The answer is "The most important thing to remember is that ideas are the foundation of progress, and we should always be open to new ideas and willing to test them." The book is written in a simple, easy-to-understand style, making it accessible to a wide range of readers. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the process of idea development and implementation.



CONCE

CONCEPTS

BACKGROUND FOR DEVELOPING CONCEPTS

This section contains concepts for preserving, protecting, and presenting to visitors the heritage resources of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. The concepts are drawn from the "Stories of the Delta" and the historic sites, museums, festivals, and natural areas that help tell those stories. (Please see appendix C for a list of heritage resources included in the concepts.)

The configuration of the concepts reflect the major role the Lower Mississippi Delta Region has played in shaping and defining our national character. Civil War battlefields, frontier forts and settlements, plantations, rural communities, river towns, trails, and ancient mound sites dot the landscape and give visitors a sense of the range of important events that have occurred here. It is the combination of these resources and the Delta's history, its songs and stories, and the lives of its people that complete the components of this region's rich and varied heritage. The men, women, and children of a hundred cultures, languages, and nationalities made and lived this heritage, and in turn, were changed by it. The challenge for today is to find viable ways to preserve and protect for future generations the important stories and resources that illustrate the struggles and triumphs of those peoples that lived that heritage.

Ten concepts are presented in this section and all concepts, in some fashion, address all the "Stories of the Delta" described in the previous section. Separate "story" concepts were developed in response to directions in the Delta Initiatives legislation and to facilitate a better understanding of the stories, resources, and people of this large geographic region. Although seemingly discreet in their subject matter with suggested boundaries where appropriate, it is important to keep in mind how the people, events, and resources in the Delta are interconnected.

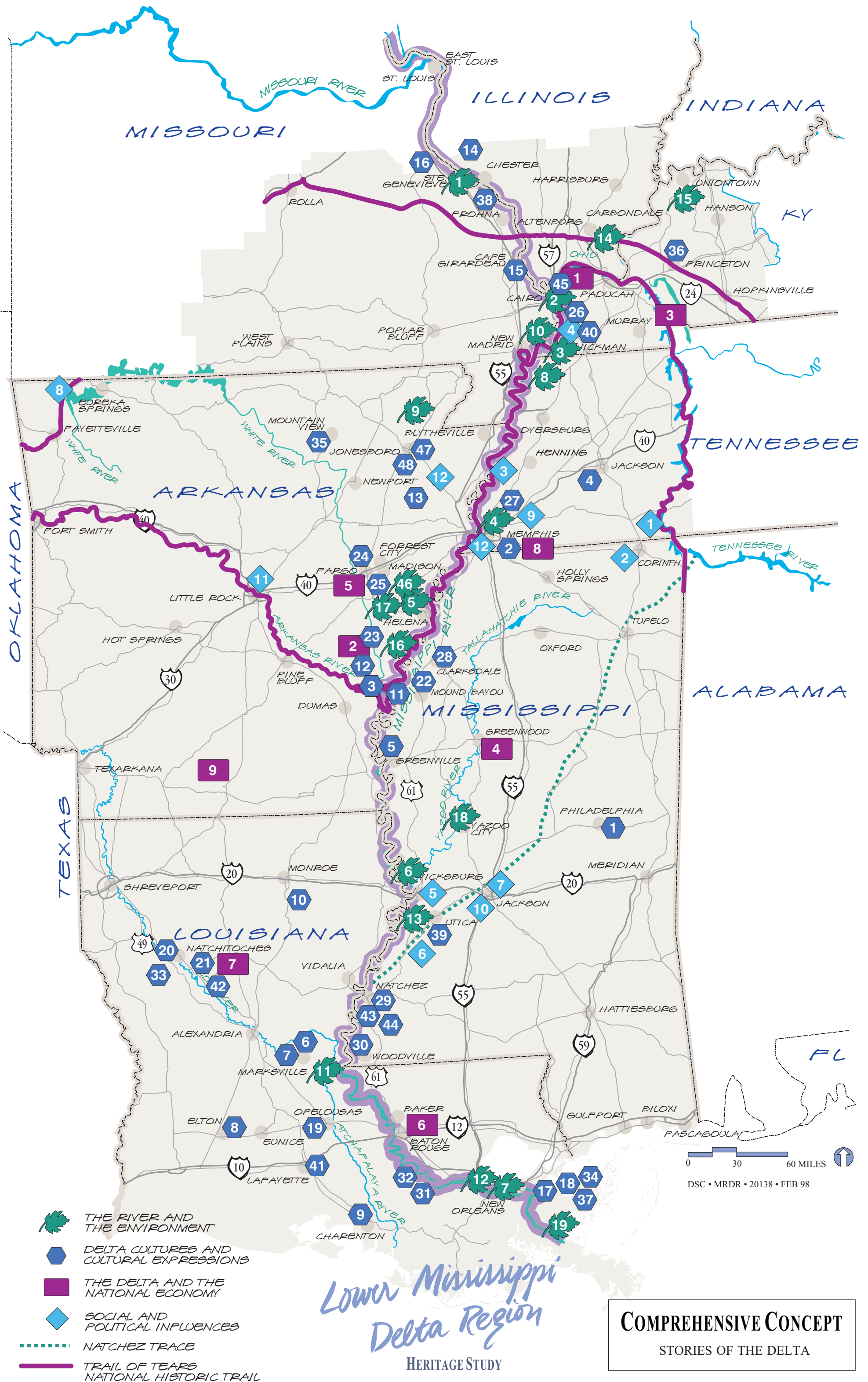
This interconnectedness is illustrated in the comprehensive concept which presents a cross section of all the "Stories of the Delta" and a sampling of the resources related to those stories. If this concept were to be implemented, resources that represent stories of the Missis-

issippi River and the natural environment, Delta cultures and cultural expressions, social and political Influences, and the Delta and the national economy would be chosen to represent what is important and essential for visitors to know and understand about the Delta as a whole.

The entire Delta would be the focus of this heritage tourism concept. Emphasis would be placed on the interrelationships between stories, resources, and people in understanding the complexity of this unique region. Visitors would learn of the geologic events and the human manipulation that have so dramatically changed the Mississippi River system over the centuries. Visitors would also appreciate and understand human cultural interactions that have occurred here — from early encounters between mound building societies to the clashes between the north and south during the Civil War. By not only recounting the usual stories of the battles and the destruction of the Civil War, but by also offering visitors opportunities to learn about the social and political interactions of the periods leading up to and after the war, they will better understand and appreciate the interrelationships of people, places, and time in the Delta.

The other nine concepts presented in this section in some way relate to the comprehensive concept but also delve into the specific topics in more detail. Each concept outlines a goal for the configuration; describes the importance/significance of that "story"; and lists the resources that could be used to implement that concept.

It must be emphasized that these concepts **do not** represent the **only** configurations of resources that could be used to preserve, protect, or present the heritage of the Delta to visitors. These are representative resources, and from the planning team's perspective, present viable opportunities for initiating heritage tourism efforts in the region. Further planning efforts may refine, add to, or eliminate the present choices. Those choices must be made at a more detailed level of planning and in coordination with state and local resource specialists.



CONCEPT 1: NATURAL RESOURCES — THE HEART OF THE DELTA

GOAL

The goal of this concept is to awaken in visitors and residents alike the awe and wonder of the magnitude, importance, and diversity of the natural systems that make up the Delta. The natural systems that have changed over time have been the reason that so many generations of people have called the Delta home.

IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE

The Mississippi River is the core of the Delta. Indeed, it is unquestionably significant to the North American continent. As a flyway, the river becomes a rest stop and feeding ground to over 20% of the nation's migrating duck populations. One of the most diverse fisheries in the world is supported by the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The Delta is world renown for its catfish production, and what would a visit to Louisiana be without crawfish?

Wildlife habitats throughout the Delta support whitetail deer, muskrats, racoons, and the river otter among others. The forests and backwater pools found along the river are home to a number of endangered species, including bald eagle, peregrine falcon, Higgins eye mussel, fat pocketbook mussel, palid sturgeon, Blandings, turtle, Massasaugua rattlesnake, relict darter, and the Louisiana black bear.

Habitat protection and restoration along with the newest ecosystem management practices are visible at wildlife refuges and national forests throughout the Delta study area. The

refuge system provides resting spaces for millions of migratory birds along their migration routes. They also ensure the survival of many animal species, ranging from bald eagles to black ducks to river otters. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers, has restoration projects underway the length of the river. The largest single landowner along the lower river, Anderson Tully, has a long history of effective wildlife management.

Vegetative communities along the river represent a bisection of many the vegetative communities found throughout the central United States. These communities include oak bottomland forests, cypress bayous, and brackish tidal wetlands.

Numerous animal and bird species depend on the diverse habitats of the river corridor for survival. Humans, in turn, depend on the health of these animal populations as they are used for food and contribute to the economic prosperity of the region. Without question, the entire nation depends on the health of the natural systems of the Mississippi River.

RESOURCES

Resources to be used for this concept include national natural landmarks, wildlife refuges, national forests, NPS units, and state recreation areas. These resources illustrate the diversity of the natural systems as well as educate visitors and residents to the importance of preserving them for future generations.

RESOURCES

NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS

1. Horseshoe Lake Natural Preserve (Alexander County, Illinois)
2. Little Grand Canyon Area (Jackson County, Illinois)
3. Giant City Geologic Area (Union County, Illinois)
4. Henderson Sloughs (Northeast of Uniontown, Kentucky)
5. Big Oak Tree (Mississippi County, Missouri)
6. Pickle Springs (St. Genevieve County, Missouri)
7. Reelfoot Lake (Lake County, Tennessee)
8. Big Lake Natural Area (Mississippi County, Arkansas)
9. Green Ash - Overcup Oak - Sweetgum Research Natural Area (Sharkey County, Mississippi)
38. Mississippi Petrified Forest (Flora, Mississippi)

NATIONAL FORESTS

10. Mark Twain National Forest (Arkansas)
11. Shawnee National Forest (Illinois)
12. Ozark National Forest (Arkansas)
13. Kisatchie National Forest (Louisiana)
14. Holly Springs National Forest (Mississippi)
15. Tombigbee National Forest (Mississippi)
16. Bienville National Forest (Mississippi)
17. DeSoto National Forest (Mississippi)
18. Homochitto National Forest (Mississippi)
19. Delta National Forest (Mississippi)
36. Ouachita National Forest (Arkansas)

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

21. Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge (Mississippi)
22. Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge (Mississippi)
23. Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (Mississippi)
24. Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (Illinois)
25. Mingo Refuge (Missouri)

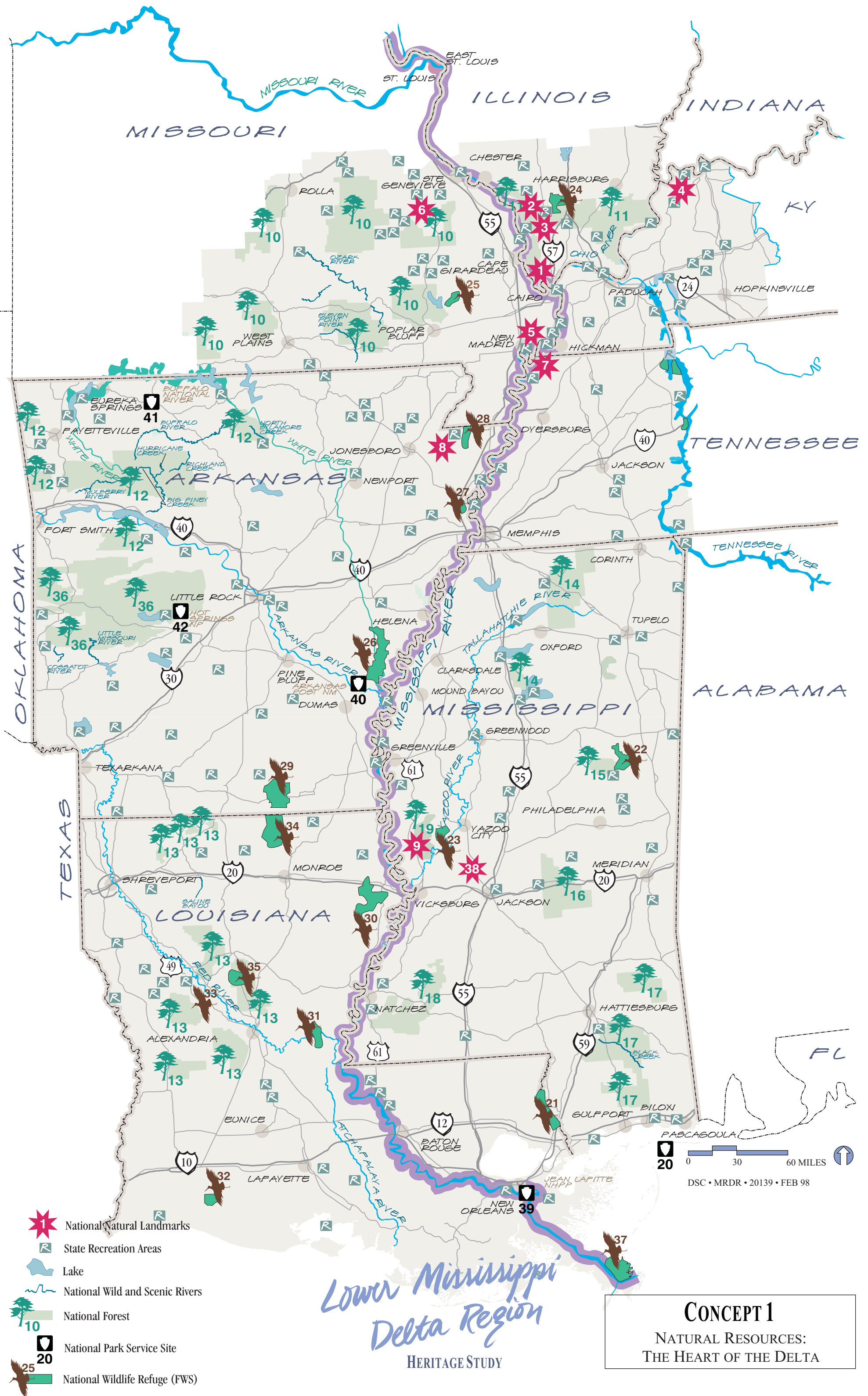
26. White River National Wildlife Refuge (Arkansas)
27. Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge (Arkansas)
28. Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Arkansas)
29. Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge (Arkansas)
30. Tensas River National Refuge (Louisiana)
31. Lake Ophelia National Refuge (Louisiana)
32. Cameron Prairie National Refuge (Louisiana)
33. Red Dirt National Refuge (Louisiana)
34. Upper Ouachita National Refuge (Louisiana)
35. Catahoula National Refuge (Louisiana)
37. Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNITS

20. Gulf Islands National Seashore (Ocean Springs, Mississippi)
39. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve:Barataria (New Orleans, Louisiana)
40. Arkansas Post National Memorial (Gillett, Arkansas)
41. Buffalo National River (Harrison, Arkansas)
42. Hot Springs National Park

STATE RECREATION AREAS

State Recreation Areas are scattered throughout the study Lower Mississippi Delta and offer residents and visitors opportunities to view and enjoy the wonders of the region's natural resources.



CONCEPT 2: TRANSFORMING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER: MANIPULATING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM TO FACILITATE NAVIGATION AND MANAGE FLOOD FLOWS

GOAL

The goal of this concept is to convey, through the use of tour routes and various destinations in the Delta, the Mississippi River's impact upon the Lower Mississippi Delta Region, specifically the geophysical evolution of the river system, the manipulation of the river system to manage flood flows and facilitate navigation, and the river towns that reflect the region's diverse cultures.

IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE

As North America's longest and largest river, draining approximately 40% of the continental United States and uniting the contiguous nation's northern and southern extremes, the Mississippi River is perhaps the United States' best known geographic feature and one of the most complex ecosystems on the planet. The river is also of unquestionable significance to the nation's heritage and generations of Indians, explorers, settlers, steamboat pilots, writers, painters, and musicians have contributed to its legend. As a

major conduit of a vast interior waterway, the Mississippi River has been the object of wars, the provider for the heartland of a nation, and a cradle for cultures and communities that have grown, prospered, and died on its banks. The river remains an enduring dimension of American culture and an integral part of the American mystique.

RESOURCES

Resources along the Mississippi River corridor are as diverse as the stories that are told about the great River. The Great River Road would be an important resource in implementing this concept. Geological sites and river towns all along the river would give visitors a sense of changes over time and would allow them to experience life on the River from many vantage points. Museums, historic sites, visitor centers, and the levee system itself would all be utilized to tell the fascinating stories of the Mississippi River and its impact on the Delta.

RESOURCES

- Geological exhibits of the region and displays of regional minerals and fossils are found at Ed Clark Museum of Missouri Geology, Memphis Pink Palace Museum, Mississippi River Museum, and Cottonlandia Museum.

Sites Representative of Region's Geophysical Transformation

11. Giant City Geologic Area, Giant City State Park (Carbondale, Illinois)
12. Lower Cache River Swamp (Carbondale, Illinois)
13. Pickle Springs (Farmington, Missouri)
14. Big Oak Tree State Park (East Prairie, Missouri)
15. Elephant Rocks State Park (Graniteville, Missouri)
16. Reelfoot Lake (Tiptonville, Tennessee)
17. Crowley's Ridge Parkway (Paragould, Arkansas)
18. Harrell Prairie Hill, Bienville National Forest (Jackson, Mississippi)
19. Mississippi Petrified Forest (Flora, Mississippi)

Natural Resources of the Mississippi River System

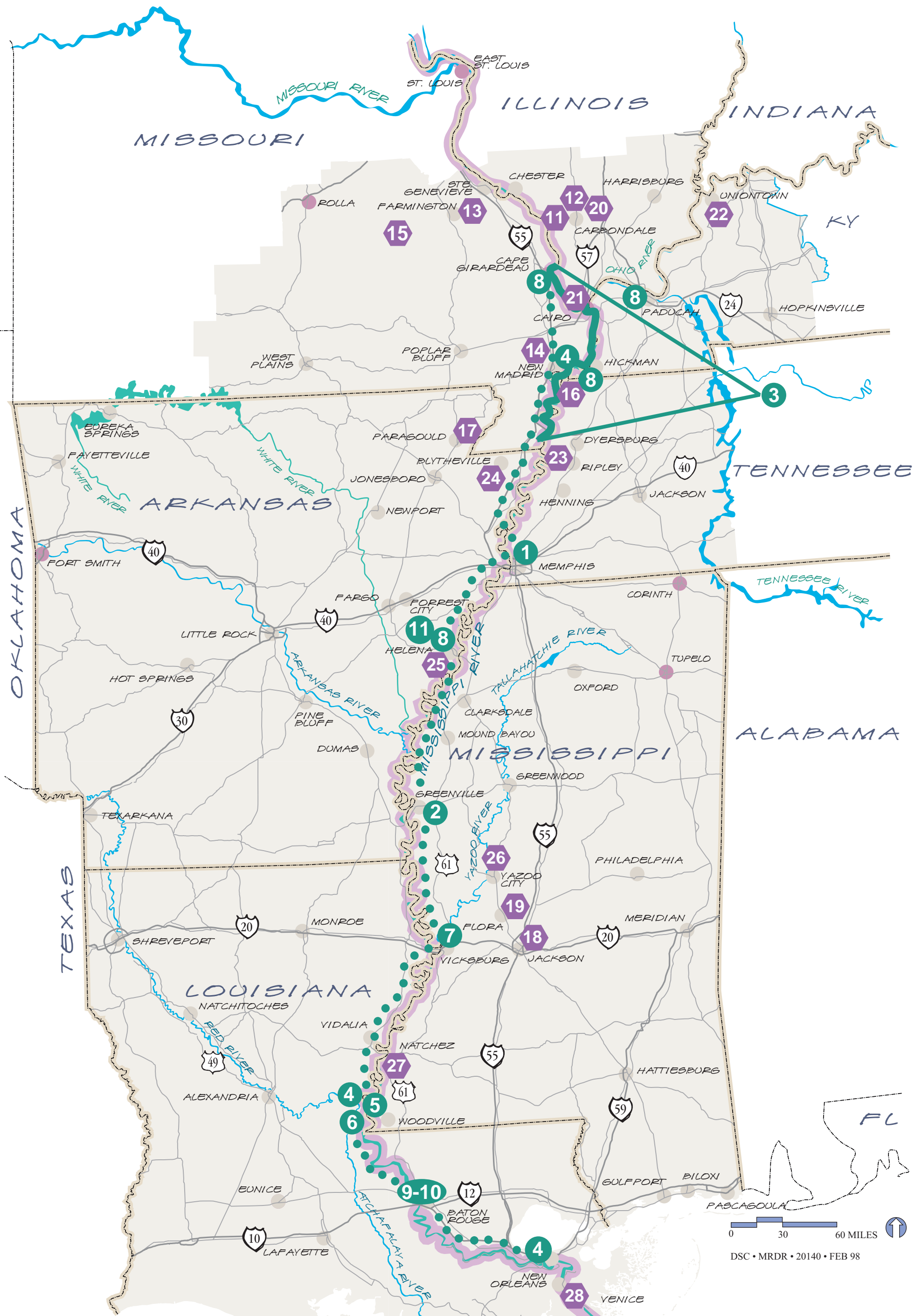
A sampling of the region's varied resources near the Mississippi River system, emphasizing hardwood forests, wetlands, and diverse habitats, many of which are national natural landmarks:

20. Little Grand Canyon Area (Carbondale, Illinois)
21. Horseshoe Lake Natural Preserve (Cairo, Illinois)
22. Henderson Sloughs (Uniontown, Kentucky)
23. Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge (Ripley, Tennessee)
16. Reelfoot Lake (Tiptonville, Tennessee)
24. Big Lake Natural Area, Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Wildlife Management Area (Blytheville, Arkansas)
25. White River Sugarberry Natural Area, White River National Wildlife Refuge (Helena, Arkansas) - three bottom land hardwood forest types and diversity of wildlife
26. Delta National Forest, Green Ash, Overcup Oak, and Sweetgum Research Natural Areas (Yazoo City, Mississippi)

27. Saint Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge (Natchez, Mississippi)
28. Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Venice, Louisiana)

Manipulating the Mississippi River System to Manage Flood Flows and Facilitate Navigation

- The mainline levee system extends along both banks of the Mississippi River from approximately Cape Girardeau, Missouri to the Gulf of Mexico, except where tributaries intersect the Mississippi River and high ground parallels the river. Some sections of the levee system are available to drive upon. The levees along the south banks of the Arkansas and Red Rivers in the Atchafalaya Basin.
1. Mississippi River Museum (Mud Island) - Memphis, Tennessee
 2. Greenville Flood (1927) Museum - Greenville, Mississippi
 3. The Little River Drainage District of Southeast Missouri, from Cape Girardeau, Missouri southward to the Missouri-Arkansas state line
 4. Floodways to divert excess flows: (1) Birds Point to New Madrid, Missouri floodway; (2) Morganza and West Atchafalaya floodways in Louisiana, and (3) Bonnet Carré Spillway upstream of New Orleans
 5. - 6. Three sites near the Mississippi River approximately 40-50 miles upstream of Baton Rouge include: (1) Old River Control structures and lock and dam, (2) Sidney A. Murray, Jr. Hydroelectric Station, component of Old River Control complex, and (3) Morganza Flood Control Structure
 7. Waterways Experiment Station Visitor Center (principal research and testing laboratory of the Corps of Engineers) - Vicksburg, Mississippi
 8. Flood walls at Cape Girardeau; Paducah, Kentucky; Hickman, Kentucky; and Helena Arkansas.
 - 9.-10. Port Allen Lock (Port Allen, Louisiana) and Plaquemine Lock (Plaquemine, Louisiana)
 11. Huxtable Pumping Plant (Marianna, Arkansas)



1 - 11

RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH
MANIPULATING THE RIVER
TO FACILITATE NAVIGATION
AND MANAGE FLOOD FLOWS

11 - 28

GEOPHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCE SITES



HERITAGE TOUR ROUTE

*Lower Mississippi
Delta Region*

HERITAGE STUDY

CONCEPT 2

TRANSFORMING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER:
MANIPULATING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
SYSTEM TO FACILITATE NAVIGATION
AND MANAGE FLOOD FLOWS

RESOURCES

River Towns along the Lower Mississippi River System

1. St. Genevieve, Missouri – Historic St. Genevieve
2. Cape Girardeau, Missouri – Historic Downtown and Riverfront
3. New Madrid, Missouri - New Madrid Museum
4. Cairo, Illinois – Confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers
5. Paducah, Kentucky – Historic Downtown and Lower Town
6. Wickliffe, Kentucky - Wickliffe Mounds
7. Columbus, Kentucky - Columbus - Belmont Battlefield State Park
8. Hickman, Kentucky – Buchanan Street Historic District.
9. Memphis, Tennessee – Overton Park Historic District.
10. Helena, Arkansas – Delta Cultural Center, slave and Confederate soldier cemeteries.
11. Greenville, Mississippi - Mississippi's Largest City on the Mississippi River
12. Vicksburg, Mississippi – Historic Downtown.
13. Natchez, Mississippi – Natchez Bluffs and Under-the-Hill Historic District; Natchez-on-top-of-the-Hill Historic District; Cemetery Bluffs Historic District; Clifton Heights Historic District; Upriver Residential Historic District; Holy Family Catholic Church Historic District; and Woodlawn Historic District
14. Baton Rouge, Louisiana – Historic Downtown
15. New Orleans, Louisiana – Vieux Carré Historic District and Garden District



- 1 - 15 RIVER TOWNS
..... HERITAGE TOUR ROUTE

*Lower Mississippi
Delta Region*
HERITAGE STUDY

CONCEPT 2A
TRANSFORMING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER:
MULTIPLE HERITAGE TOURS AND
DESTINATIONS IN THE
LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION

CONCEPT 3: NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKES/ SEISMIC ZONE TOUR ROUTE

GOAL

This concept would establish an auto tour route to both illustrate the impact of the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812, which were unique geological occurrences that dramatically altered the area's topography, and to explore the implications of this active seismic zone for the lower Mississippi Delta region today.

IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE

During the winter of 1811-1812, a series of earthquakes and after-shocks struck the mid-Mississippi River valley in the vicinity of New Madrid, Missouri, then the largest settlement on the banks of the Mississippi River between St. Louis, Missouri, and Natchez, Mississippi. The three strongest earthquakes occurred on December 16, 1811, and on January 23 and February 7, 1812, registering estimated magnitudes of 8.6, 8.4, and 8.7 on the Richter Scale, respectively (for comparison purposes, the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 registered 8.6). The earthquakes sent tremors rippling across the northeastern United States and parts of Canada, but nearer the New Madrid epicenter

...(t)he effects were awesome. The saturated bottom land soil spurted huge geysers of sand and water. During the main shocks the land heaved and buckled for minutes, trees were splintered, a prolonged roaring was heard and the air smelled of sulfur. According to one account, the after shocks were a constant trembling, "like the flesh of a beef just killed."....The effect of the third and strongest main shock on the Mississippi (River) itself was even more striking. As an eyewitness wrote, at "about 4 o'clock a.m. a concussion took place so much

more violent than those which preceded it that it dominated the hard shock....At first the Mississippi seemed to recede from its banks...its waters gathering up like a mountain [only to fall] again with such violence that it took with it whole groves of young cotton wood trees which ledged its borders.... The river was literally covered with the wreckage of boats." The riverbed itself was so disturbed that two waterfalls (or at least rapids) were formed, one upstream from New Madrid and one downstream (Johnston 1982).

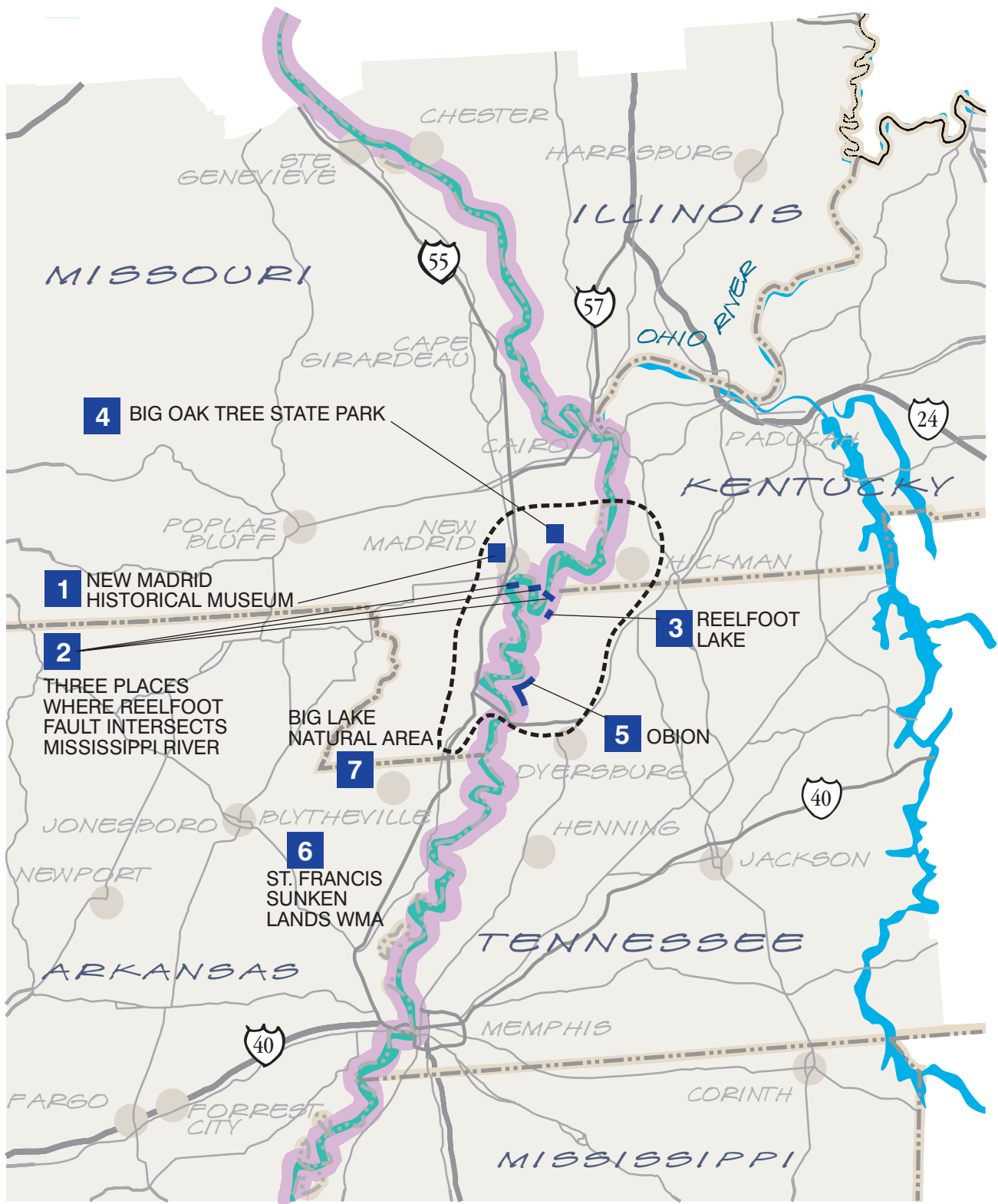
In addition to the fissuring and toppling of trees, historical, geological, and geophysical research has confirmed that the earthquakes also caused the caving of riverbanks, temporary waterfalls, barriers, and a brief retrograde wave along the Mississippi River; created sunken lakes, such as Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee and St. Francis and Big Lake in Arkansas; and resulted in sunken forests, such as the one discovered near present-day Blytheville, Arkansas (Johnston and Schweig 1996). Today, the New Madrid region remains seismically active and "...is shaken by small earthquakes on an average of every 48 hours..." though many are micro quakes below the threshold of human perception (Johnston 1996).

RESOURCES

Resources that would be used in implementing this concept include a museum, state park, public roads, and natural resources that directly reflect the impact of the 1811 - 1812 earthquake events in the Delta (please see Concept 3 map).

RESOURCES

1. New Madrid Historical Museum
2. Three points where the Reelfoot fault intersects the Mississippi River, near New Madrid and at Island #10
3. Reelfoot Lake; the Reelfoot Lake Museum; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's visitor center at Reelfoot Lake
4. Big Oak Tree State Park
5. The Obion Bluffs, in which fissure and landslide scars are visible, between Dyersburg, Tennessee, and Caruthersville, Missouri
6. St. Francis Sunken Lands Wildlife Management Area (Caraway, Arkansas)
7. Big Lake Natural Area (Mississippi County, Arkansas)



----- AUTO TOUR ROUTE

0 20 40 MILES



DSC • MRDR • 20142 • FEB 98

*Lower Mississippi
Delta Region*
HERITAGE STUDY

CONCEPT 3

NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKES /
SEISMIC ZONE TOUR ROUTE

CONCEPT 4: THE PEOPLE: ENCOUNTERING THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION

GOAL

The diversity of the Lower Mississippi Delta region's cultural heritage is reflected in the names of cities and towns up and down the river: Ste. Genevieve, Kaskaskia, Altenburg, Wittenburg, Cape Girardeau, Cairo, Hickman, Helena, Memphis, Vicksburg, Natchez, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Venice. The Mississippi River and its associated bounty not only sustained the region's first inhabitants, the Indians, but have in succeeding centuries attracted immigrants from around the world.

This goal of this concept is to illustrate, through the use of existing facilities and activities, opportunities for visitors to experience the richness of the history, the complexity of social and cultural interactions, and the historic sites, festivals, and other celebrations of cultural diversity in the Delta.

IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE

Over the previous centuries, many cultures converged in the rich natural areas of the Lower Mississippi Delta region. From approximately A.D. 700 to the arrival of the first European explorers during the 16th century, the mound building Mississippians thrived, establishing complex social, political, and economic relationships within and beyond the Delta. Successive waves of European explorers, armies, and settlers became only the latest inhabitants to have a long ranging impact on the region.

American Indian

By now it is a cliché to say that the "New World" was anything but new when Columbus arrived. Less well known, however, is the sheer breath of the pre-Columbian civilizations. Millions of people inhabited the Americas in 1492, most densely along the coast and major rivers, and these indigenous peoples, or

American Indians, were discoverers, explorers, warriors, and settlers in the New World. They spoke over 600 distinct languages. Indian economies varied from farming, to maritime activities, to hunters and gatherers, while Indian artisans were adept at weaving, carving, sculpting, and painting. The pre-Columbian Americas were a teeming world of life — a rich tapestry of cultures with diverse economies, complex religious cosmologies, and sophisticated arts and crafts.¹

Spanish Influence

At the time the Spaniard Hernando de Soto and his expeditionary army landed on the west coast of present-day Florida in 1539, many of the leading Mississippian centers were already in decline. As de Soto's army slogged overland through the Southeast to the Mississippi River, bloody encounters between the Mississippians and the Spanish expedition presaged the Indians eventual loss of their lands and lifeways, as Europeans increasingly penetrated the continent over the succeeding centuries.

Two centuries after de Soto's expedition, during the 1770s, approximately 1,500 Canary Islanders settled in the marshlands southeast of New Orleans (present-day St. Bernard Parish), where they hunted, trapped, and fished for sustenance. Their descendants, known as the Isleños, continue to speak an archaic Spanish dialect and perform traditional decimas — folk songs of 10 syllable lines sung *acapella*.

French Culture

During the 17th century, following the successful descent down the Mississippi River by Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle in 1682, the French envisioned establishing a

¹ Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., *500 Nations: An Illustrated History of North American Indians*, (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1994), 8-9.

comprehensive commercial system in North America. The Mississippi River offered an all-weather outlet to the sea for the furs of the northern American lands France dominated, and control of the river's length would both confine the British to the east and open the vast American plains to French exploitation. Though France never realized its grand scheme for North America, French settlements dot the Mississippi Delta region. Descendant French populations still live in southern Illinois and Missouri as well as southeastern Arkansas in such communities as Prairie du Rocher, Kaskaskia, Ste. Genevieve, and Cape Girardeau, Dumas, and in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Cajun Culture

During Great Britain's conquest of the French empire in North America (1754–1763), the British expelled nearly 75%, or over 10,000, of the French Catholic Acadians from Nova Scotia. Many of the displaced Acadians eventually migrated to Louisiana, settling in the eastern prairies and along Bayou Lafourche and the lower Mississippi River, to farm, fish, hunt, and trap, while interacting and intermarrying with their American, Spanish, Indian, and African American neighbors. Today the French derived dialect spoken by the descendants of the Acadians, known as Cajuns (a name given to them by the Indians) can be heard throughout southern Louisiana and their cuisine and music are deeply imbedded in the state's culture.

African-American Culture

Brought to the Delta in slavery, forced to work in bondage and servitude throughout the antebellum years, and freed only with the catastrophe of the Civil War, African-Americans form the very fiber of the social and political tapestry of the Delta. Communities as diverse as Mound Bayou, Mississippi and Fargo, Arkansas; Little Rock, Arkansas and Memphis, Tennessee; and New Orleans and Monroe, Louisiana, illustrate the pride and entre-

preneurial spirit of the Delta's black communities.

Creole Culture

The term Creole refers to a diversity of cultural groups. The white Creoles of colonial Louisiana were born of French and Spanish parents before 1803. White Creoles were generally landed gentry, who adopted and retained European culture and mannerisms. In central Louisiana the Cane River Creoles of color emerged during the 18th century from a family of freed slaves. The social stratum occupied by Creoles of color was unique to Louisiana. Some of the Cane River Creoles became wealthy plantation owners and developed their own unique culture, enjoying the respect and friendship of the dominant white Creole society. In the context of racial mixing, Creole could also refer to those of European-Indian descent in Louisiana.

Other Cultures

Many other groups also contributed to the cultural diversity of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. During the 19th century, German immigrants settled along the Mississippi River above New Orleans and below Cape Girardeau and near Stuttgart, Arkansas. Sephardic Jews migrated to New Orleans from countries ringing the Mediterranean Sea. By the 1830s, Americans and Euro-Americans were migrating eastward across the United States to the Delta, which was then known as the "Southwest Territory." The Irish also came to the Delta in the 1830s and a small community of Filipinos established a fishing village in southern Louisiana. Chinese laborers were recruited from New Orleans and Asia in the 1870s, and a decade later many Jewish, Sicilian, and Lebanese people migrated to the Delta from southern and eastern Europe. By the late 19th century, a Syrian community was established in the Arkansas Delta and a substantial Italian contingent settled in New Orleans.

The Lower Mississippi Delta Region continued to lure immigrants during the 20th century. In

the 1950s Cuban immigrants moved to New Orleans and the migration of Vietnamese to southern Louisiana occurred in the 1970s. More recently, the largest numbers of immigrants stem from Mexico, the Philippines, Korea, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica.

RESOURCES

Existing resources that illustrate the diversity of cultures that have resided in the Delta and those that continue to inhabit the region are highlighted in this concept. The resources listed for this concept include historic sites, visitor centers, museums, and festival sites that are presently interpreting and celebrating many of the numerous cultural groups of the Delta.

Cajun and Creole Cultures

The heritages and influences of the Cajuns and Creoles can currently be encountered at a number of sites in Louisiana (see list of resources accompanying the Concept 4 map). In addition, the following are examples of both extant tours that link representative sites and events that celebrate the Cajun and Creole heritages:

Cajun Culture

- Old Spanish Trail, U.S. Highway 90 and LA Highway 182, which travels through the heart of Louisiana's Cajun country (pamphlet/map)
- Acadiana Trail Driving Tour (pamphlet/map)
- The Real French Destination, Louisiana Scenic Byway - St. Landry and Lafayette Parishes (map)
- Zydeco Cajun Prairie, Louisiana Scenic Byway - Evangeline and Acadia Parishes (map)
- Walking and Driving Tours of New Orleans (pamphlets/maps)
- Annual Louisiana Folklife Festival (Monroe, Louisiana)

Creole Culture

- Cane River Plantation Tour, Natchitoches Parish (pamphlet/map)
- Town Tour of Natchitoches Historic District (pamphlet/map)
- Annual Candlelight Tour of the Natchitoches Historic District, during the Historic Natchitoches Pilgrimage (pamphlet)
- Annual Northwestern State University Folk Festival (Natchitoches, Louisiana)
- Louisiana Colonial Trails Driving Tour - from Natchez, Mississippi to Natchitoches to the former Spanish Southwest (pamphlet/map)
- Creole Nature Trail Scenic Byway, Louisiana Scenic Byway - Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes (map)
- Walking and Driving Tours of New Orleans (pamphlets/maps)

The Isleño heritage is currently interpreted at the Jean Lafitte Isleño Center in Toca, Louisiana. The New Madrid Museum in New Madrid, Missouri, addresses the Spanish colonial period and in Cape Girardeau, also in Missouri, a marker commemorates the site of La Casa Roja (Red House), an early 18th century trading post and military headquarters of the Spanish District of Cape Girardeau.

French Culture

The French heritage in New Orleans is currently represented and interpreted at several sites in the Delta. Ste. Genevieve and Cape Girardeau, Missouri as well as areas in southeast Arkansas represent French cultural influences in the Delta during different historical periods.

RESOURCES

American Indian Cultures

- 38. Chucalissa Indian Village (Memphis, Tennessee)
- 40. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (Philadelphia, Mississippi)
- 41. Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana (Marksville, Louisiana)
- 42. Pinson Mounds State Archeological Site (Pinson, Tennessee)
- 43. Jena Band of Choctaw (Jena, Louisiana)
- 44. Arkansas Post National Memorial, Menard/Hodges Archeological Site, (Osotuooy) (Gillett, Arkansas)
- 49. Coutshatta Tribe (Elton, Louisiana)
- 48. The Chitimacha Tribe (Charenton, Louisiana)

French and Spanish Influences

- 17. Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site and Pierre Menard Home (Ellis Grove, Illinois)
- 18. French Colonial Historic District (Prairie Du Rocher, Illinois)
- 19. Cape Girardeau River Heritage Museum (Cape Girardeau, Missouri)
- 20. Ste. Genevieve Museum; Great River Road Interpretive Center; and Historic Ste. Genevieve (St. Genevieve, Missouri)
- 21. Vieux Carré Historic District (New Orleans, Louisiana)
- 39. Parkin Archeological State Park (Parkin, Arkansas)
- 7. Great River Road State Park (Rosedale, Mississippi)

Cajun Culture

- 4. Acadian Memorial; Statue of Evangeline and the Perpetual Adoration Garden and Historic Cemetery; Evangeline Oak/Evangeline Oak Park; St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church; and Le Maison Duchamp (St. Martinville, Louisiana)
- 5. Konriko Rice Mill (New Iberia, Louisiana)
- 6. Acadiana Visitor Center (Opelousas, Louisiana)
- 35. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (New Orleans, Louisiana)
 - 1. Prairie Acadian Cultural Center (Eunice, Louisiana)
 - 2. Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center (Thibodaux, Louisiana)
 - 3. Acadian Cultural Center (Lafayette, Louisiana)

African-American Culture

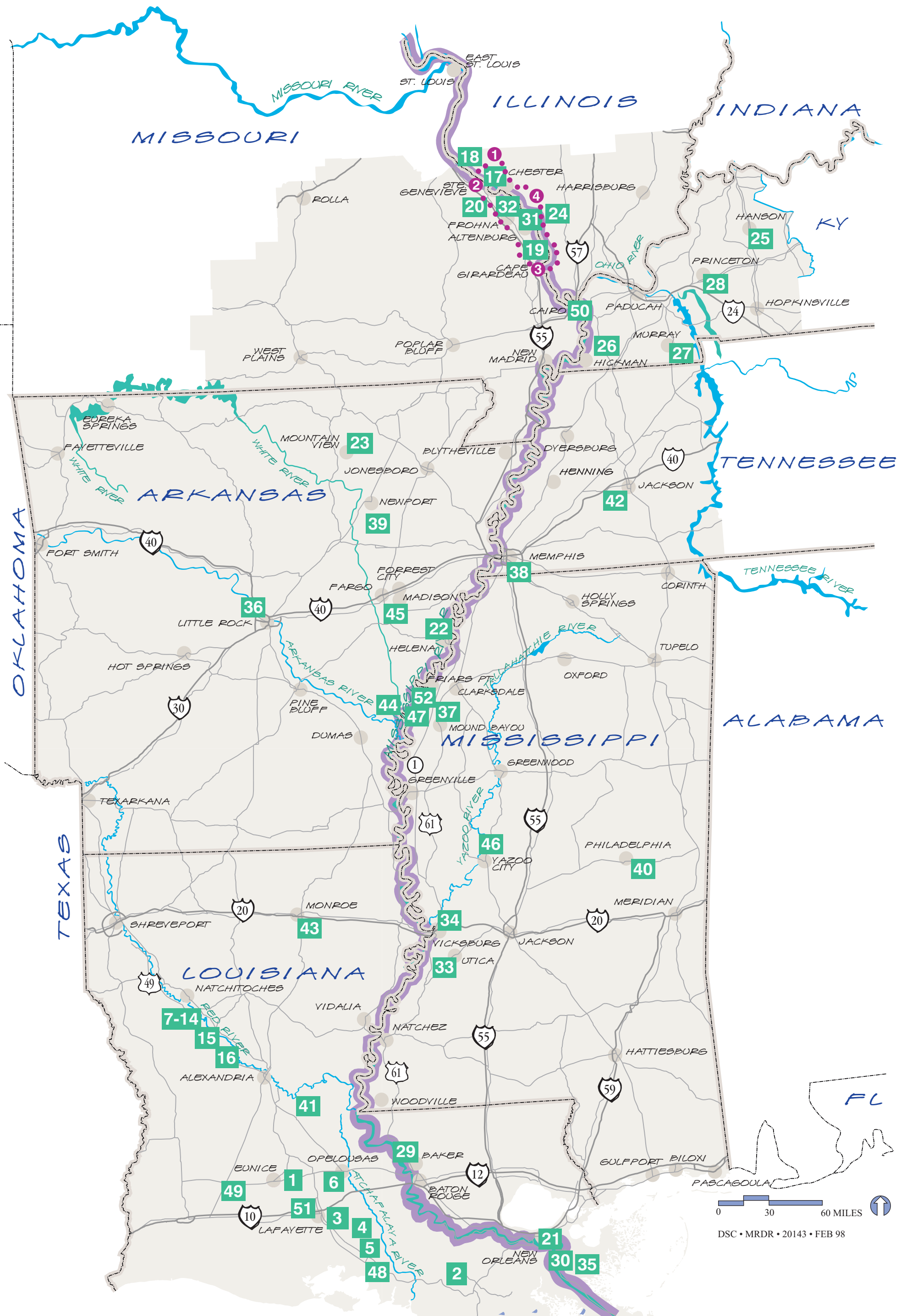
- 36. Little Rock High School (Little Rock, Arkansas)
- 37. Mound Bayou, Mississippi
- 38. National Civil Rights Museum (Memphis, Tennessee)
- 45. Madison, Arkansas
- 46. The Oakes African-American Cultural Center (Yazoo City, Mississippi)
- 48. Fargo Agricultural Museum (Fargo, Arkansas)
- 50. Cairo, Illinois
- 51. Arna Bontemps African-American Museum (Lafayette, Louisiana)

Creole Culture

- 7-12. Melrose Plantation; Magnolia Plantation; Oakland Plantation; Atahoe Plantation; Beau Fort Plantation; Oak Lawn Plantation; Cherokee Plantation; and the Jones House (Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana)
- 13-14. Natchitoches Historic District, Badin-Roque House, (Natchitoches, Louisiana)
- 15. Kate Chopin House and Bayou Folk Museum (Cloutierville, Louisiana)
- 16. St. Augustine Church and Cemetery (Isle Brevelle, Louisiana)

Other Cultural Influences

- 22. Delta Cultural Center (Helena, Arkansas)
- 23. Ozark Folk Center (Mountain View, Arkansas)
- 24. West Walnut Street Historic District (Carbondale, Illinois)
- 25. Hanson Historic District (Hanson, Kentucky)
- 26. Buchanan Street Historic District (Hickman, Kentucky)
- 27. Wrather West Kentucky Museum (Murray, Kentucky)
- 28. Adsmore Living History Museum (Princeton, Kentucky)
- 29. Heritage Museum (Baker, Louisiana)
- 30. American Italian Museum and Library (New Orleans, Louisiana)
- 31. Concordia Log College/Seminary (Attenburg, Missouri)
- 32. Saxon Lutheran Memorial (Frohna, Missouri)
- 33. Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience (Utica, Mississippi)
- 34. Southern Cultural Heritage Complex (Vicksburg, Mississippi)



- 1-4 FRENCH CULTURAL SITES
- ... FRENCH HERITAGE TOUR ROUTE OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI
- 1-52 SITES REPRESENTING CULTURAL DIVERSITY (SEE TABLE ABOVE)

Lower Mississippi
Delta Region
HERITAGE STUDY

CONCEPT 4
THE PEOPLE: ENCOUNTERING THE
CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE
LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION

CONCEPT 5: AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE IN THE DELTA

GOAL

The goal of this concept is to begin to identify the stories and resources related to American Indian heritage in the Delta. Section 1104 of the Delta Initiatives calls for recommendations for establishing a Native American heritage corridor and cultural centering the Delta. This concept lays some of the groundwork toward implementing section 1104. The planning team met with Indian groups resident in the Delta and with some of those who have historic ties. Any further planning efforts to finalize section 1104 should include participation by Indian groups interested in the area.

IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE

Four thousand years ago the predecessors of today's American Indians established communities in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region marked by large elaborate earthen mound structures. Around 1,000 A.D., larger, more complex mounds were erected by Mississippian cultures. Circular and conical mounds of the earliest inhabitants and the flat top earthen mounds within large towns of the Mississippian peoples are still evident across the lower Mississippi valley. The story of these inhabitants and the myriad generations of Native American peoples that followed helped define the natural and cultural landscape of a region and shaped the evolution of the character of a nation.

Today there are five federally recognized American Indian tribes resident within the Lower Mississippi Delta Region study area:

- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (Philadelphia, Mississippi)
- Jena Band of Choctaw (Jena, Louisiana)
- Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana (Marksville, Louisiana)
- Chitimacha Tribe (Charenton, Louisiana)
- Coushatta Tribe (Elton, Louisiana).

Other Louisiana Indian groups are recognized by the state as Indian communities.

One of the misconceptions about American Indians in the Southeast is the belief that there

are no Indian peoples still living in the Delta region or anywhere in the southeastern United States. On the contrary, tribal members from various tribes live in the Delta and are currently thriving. For example the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in Philadelphia, Mississippi, which are descendants of Choctaws removed from their homelands in eastern Mississippi in the 1830s, struggled to survive as a recognized tribal entity. Today, they serve as a model for tribal organization, social programs, and successful economic development and diversity.

The Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana in Marksville have a different story of Indian survival to tell in the Delta. The Tunica-Biloxi, descendants of two separate tribes, the Tunica and Biloxi, received federal recognition in 1981. The tribe's successful 10-year legal battle to recover its ancestral artifacts, the "Tunica Treasures," laid the foundation for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, passed into law in 1995. This landmark case and its preceding legislation have had an impact on other indigenous groups across the country in reclaiming their ancestral remains and artifacts.

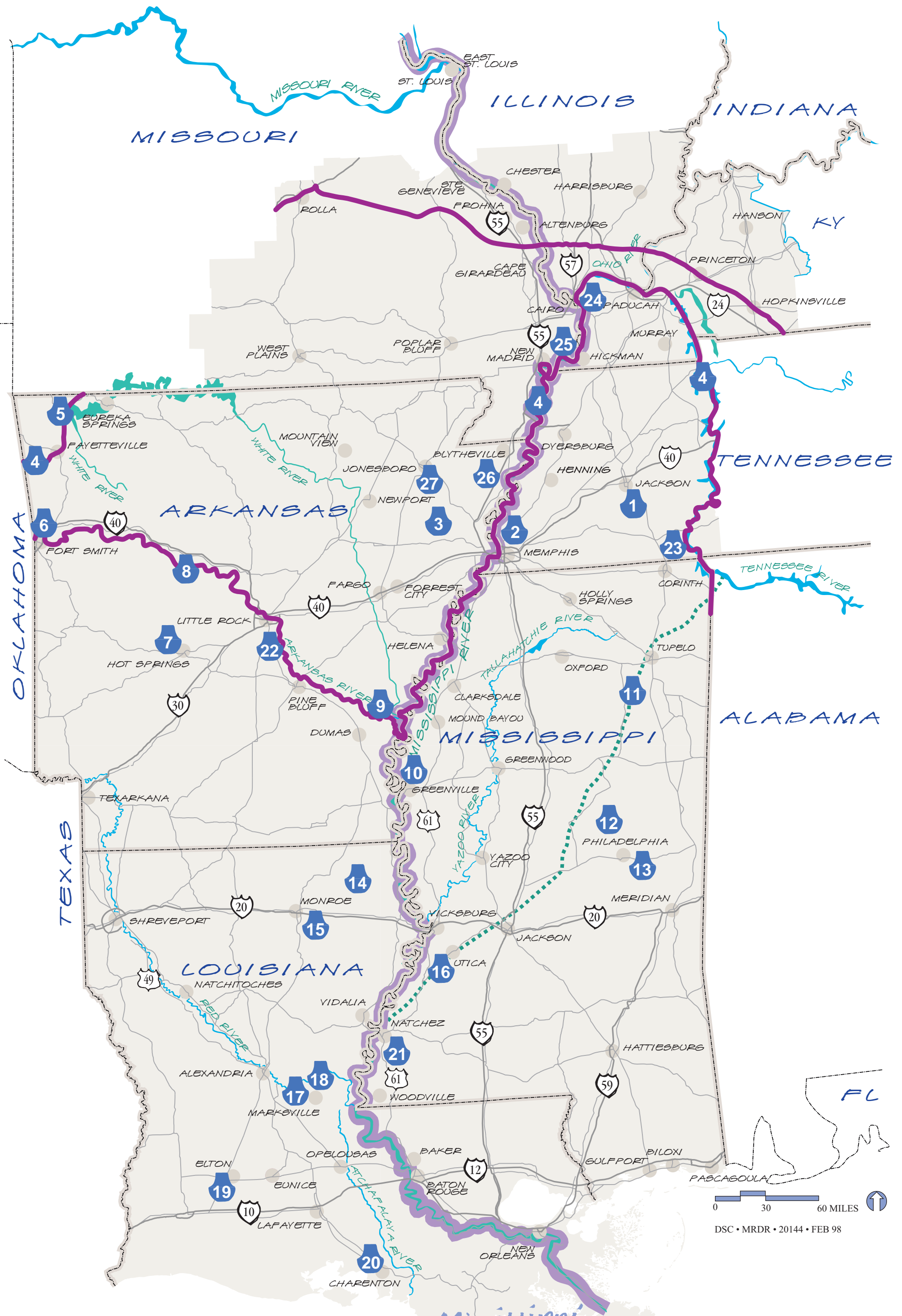
The other federally recognized tribes in the Delta have stories of survival and success to relate. Their heritages reach back to the original mound building societies of various archeologic periods and stretch to the visible activities of today's modern Indian peoples.

RESOURCES

Historic sites, Indian museums and visitor centers, mound sites, and historic trails make up the configuration of this concept. As can be seen by the Concept 5 map, a variety of archeological and historic sites and museums and Indian business enterprises can be found in the Delta. These resources span centuries of Delta stories of Indian civilizations, trade networks, trails, architecture, struggle, removal, and survival as symbols on the landscape of the native peoples who have inhabited the Delta.

RESOURCES

1. Pinson Mounds State Archeological Site (Pinson, Tennessee)
2. Chucalissa Indian Village (Memphis, Tennessee)
3. Parkin Archeological State Park (Parkin, Arkansas)
4. Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi)
5. Pea Ridge National Military Park (Pea Ridge, Arkansas)
6. Fort Smith National Historic Site (Fort Smith, Arkansas)
7. Hot Springs National Park (Hot Springs, Arkansas)
8. Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, Arkansas River Route
9. Arkansas Post National Memorial, Menard/Hodges Archeological Site (Gillett, Arkansas)
10. Winterville Mounds State Park and Museum (Washington County, Mississippi)
11. and 16. Natchez Trace Parkway (Mississippi) - there are several mound sites along the parkway
12. Nanih Waiya Historical Memorial (Winston County, Mississippi)
13. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (Philadelphia, Mississippi)
14. Poverty Point National Monument State Commemorative Area (Epps, Louisiana)
15. Jena Band of Choctaw (Jena, Louisiana)
17. Tunica-Biloxi Indiana of Louisiana (Marksville, Louisiana)
18. Marksville State Commemorative Area (Marksville, Louisiana)
19. Coushatta Tribe (Elton, Louisiana)
20. The Chitimacha Tribe (Charenton, Louisiana)
21. Grand Village of the Natchez (Natchez, Mississippi)
22. Toltec (Knapp) Mounds Archeological State Park (Scott, Arkansas)
23. Shiloh Mounds at Shiloh National Military Park (Shiloh, Tennessee)
24. Wickliffe Mounds (Wickliffe, Kentucky)
25. Towosahgy State Park (near East Prairie, Missouri)
26. Hampson Museum State Park (Wilson, Arkansas)
27. Arkansas State University Museum (Jonesboro, Arkansas)



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- AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE SITES
- NATCHEZ TRACE
- TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Lower Mississippi Delta Region

HERITAGE STUDY

CONCEPT 5
AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE
IN THE DELTA

CONCEPT 6: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE IN THE DELTA

GOAL

As in concept 5 the goal of this concept is to lay groundwork for the implementation of section 1104 of the Delta Initiatives legislation, which calls for recommendations for establishing an African-American Heritage Corridor and Cultural Center in the Delta.

By using a "hub-and-spoke" configuration to identify the stories and resources related to African-American heritage in the Delta, this configuration enables a comprehensive presentation of the people, events, and places important for understanding the evolution of the Delta's African-American culture and communities. Major interpretive centers (museums, visitor centers, or community centers) would serve as hubs where visitors would be introduced to the broad spectrum of African-American life in the Delta and would then be directed to "spoke" sites — other museums, historic sites, and/or communities that would give an in-depth interpretation of one or more African-American stories found in the Delta.

IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE

Any study of the cultural heritage of the Lower Mississippi Delta must include a study of the history of the region's African-American citizens. Brought to the Delta in slavery, forced to work in bondage and servitude throughout the antebellum years, and freed only with the catastrophe of the Civil War, African-Americans form the very fiber of the social and political tapestry of the Delta. Their lives, as enslaved people, free people of color, entrepreneurs, inventors, and men and women of science, victims of Jim Crow and the KKK, leaders and travelers on the Underground Railroad, Civil Rights activists who gave their lives for the cause, sharecroppers and landowners, farmers and business people, the poor in a wealthy land — all these stories and more are the stories of the lives of African-Americans in the Delta.

To commemorate the lives and achievements of African-Americans in the Delta, this concept addresses the need to put in place a series of resource sites that directly reflect the important lives and events in African-American history in the Delta. An African-American Heritage Corridor reaching from the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers at Cairo, Illinois, in the north to New Orleans, Louisiana, near the mouth of the river in the south could begin to give visitors an understanding of the complexity of the social interactions, political struggles, and rich cultural legacy that touches all aspects of Delta life.

RESOURCES

A variety of cultural and natural resources would be used to implement this concept. National historic landmarks, historic districts, rural community centers, museums, and historic sites would all be considered important for preserving, protecting, and presenting African-American heritage in the Delta.

Criteria would be established for choosing the appropriate resources for the "hub" sites, in consultation with state and local preservation and African-American community groups. The criteria might include: significance/importance of the site/resource in African-American history; ability of the site/resource to convey multiple stories related to African-American life in the Delta; access to major transportation routes or along important historic migration routes related to African-American heritage; access to other "hub-and-spoke" sites/resources in the Delta; local community support to sustain a major interpretive center.

Further, more site specific planning would need to be accomplished to establish the criteria, identify sites and resources, and delineate the most appropriate configuration of the corridor. The work would be done in consultation with local African-American communities, businesses, and preservation groups resident in the Delta.

RESOURCES

Hub Sites (Sites/resources to be determined)

1. Cairo, Illinois
2. Little Rock, Arkansas
3. Memphis, Tennessee
4. Helena, Arkansas
5. Mound Bayou, Mississippi
6. Monroe, Louisiana
7. Natchitoches, Louisiana
8. Alcorn, Mississippi
9. Jackson, Mississippi
10. New Orleans, Louisiana

Spoke Sites (Possible sites/resources)

Arkansas

1. Jonesboro
2. Madison
3. Fargo (Floyd Brown-Fargo Agricultural School Museum)
4. Smackover (Arkansas Oil and Brine Museum)
5. Springhill (Shiloh Museum)
6. Little Rock (Arkansas Baptist College)
7. North Little Rock (Philander Smith College)
8. North Little Rock (Shorter College)
9. Pine Bluff (University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff)

Illinois

10. Sparta (A.A. Burlingame House)

Kentucky

11. Hopkinsville (Poston House)
12. Hickman (Thomas Chapel CME Church)
13. Paducah (Artelia Anderson Hall)

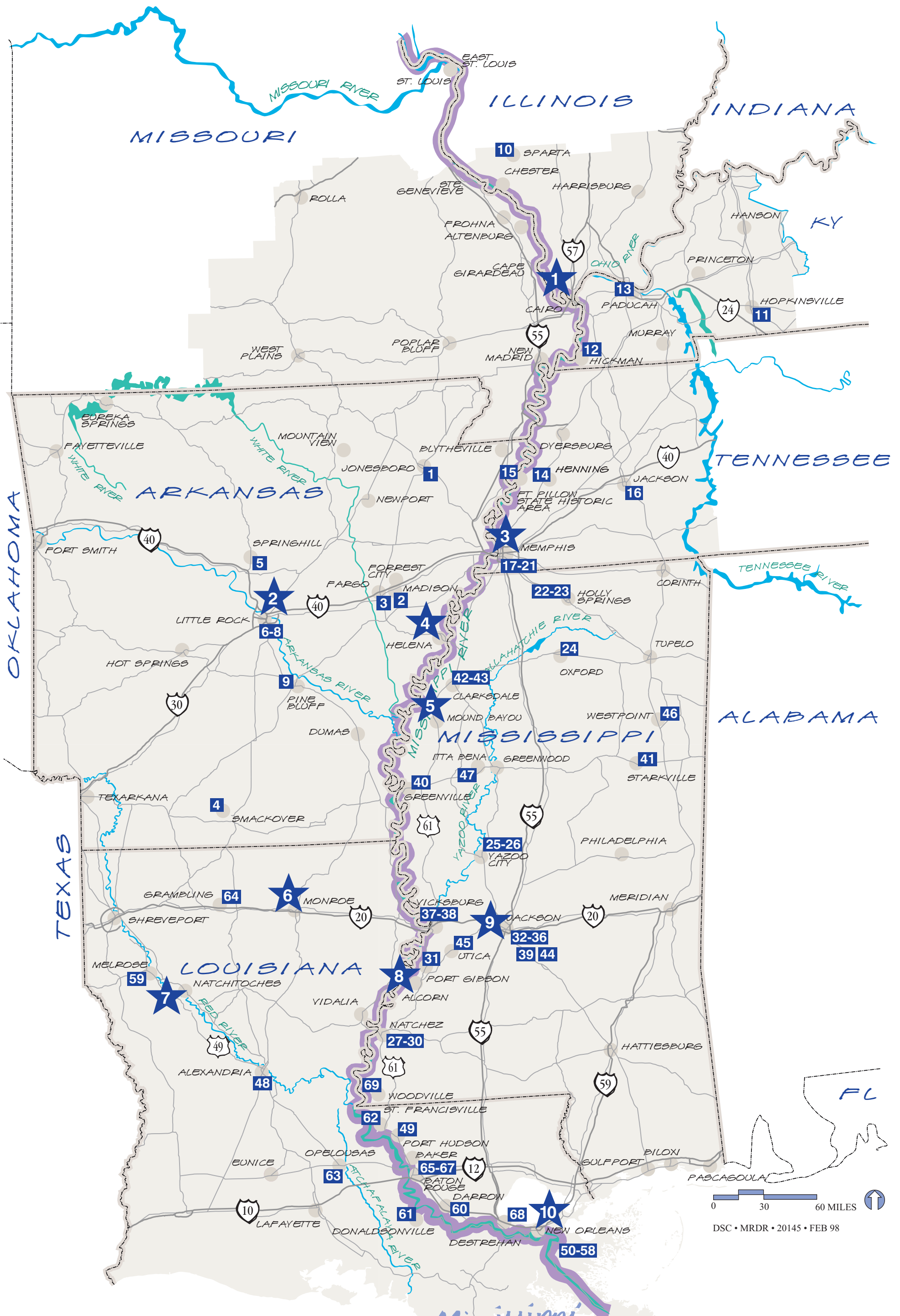
Tennessee

14. Henning (W. E. Palmer House)
15. Fort Pillow (Fort Pillow)
16. Jackson (Lane College Historic District)
17. Memphis (Beale Street Historic District)
18. Memphis (Mason Temple, Church of God In Christ)
19. Memphis (South Main Street Historic District)
20. Memphis (Steele Hall, LeMoyne-Owen College Campus)
21. Memphis (Zion Cemetery)

Mississippi

22. Holly Springs (Rust College)
23. Holly Springs (Mississippi Industrial College Historic District)
24. Oxford (University of Mississippi)
25. Yazoo City (Triangle Cultural Center)
26. Yazoo City (Historic District)

27. Natchez (China Grove Plantation)
 28. Natchez (Glen Aubin)
 29. Natchez (William Johnson House - Natchez National Historical Park)
 30. Natchez (Smith-Bontura-Evans House)
 31. Port Gibson (Golden West Cemetery)
 32. Jackson (Farish Street Neighborhood Historic District)
 33. Jackson (Mississippi State Capitol)
 34. Jackson (West Capitol Street Historic District)
 35. Jackson (Alex Williams House)
 36. Tougaloo (John W. Boddie House, Tougaloo College campus)
 37. Vicksburg (Beulah Cemetery)
 38. Vicksburg (The Jacqueline House)
 39. Jackson (Margaret Walker Alexander National African-American Research Center)
 40. Greenville (Flowing Fountain)
 41. Starkville (Oddfellows Cemetery)
 42. Clarksdale (Coahoma Junior College)
 43. Clarksdale (Clarksdale Blues Museum)
 44. Jackson (Jackson State University)
 45. Utica (Hines Community College)
 46. West Point (Mary Holmes College)
 47. Itta Bena (Mississippi Valley State University)
 69. Woodville (William Grant Still; Woodville Historical Museum; Jefferson Davis)
- #### Louisiana
48. Alexandria (Arna Bontemps African American Museum)
 49. Port Hudson (Civil War Sites)
 50. New Orleans (Southern University)
 51. New Orleans (Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve)
 52. New Orleans (Jazz National Historical Park)
 53. New Orleans (Congo Square)
 54. New Orleans (Flint-Goodridge Hospital of Dillard University)
 55. New Orleans (Black Arts National Diaspora, Inc.)
 56. New Orleans (Xavier University)
 57. New Orleans (The French Market)
 58. New Orleans (Louis Armstrong Park)
 59. Melrose (Melrose Plantation)
 60. Arrow (River Road African American Museum)
 61. Donaldsonville (Benevolent Societies)
 62. St. Francisville (Rosedown Baptist Church)
 63. Opelousas (Home of Zydeco music)
 64. Grambling (Grambling State University)
 65. Baton Rouge (Southern University A&M)
 66. Baton Rouge (LSU Rural Life Museum)
 67. Baton Rouge (Tabby's Blues Box & Heritage Hall)
 68. Destrehan (Destrehan Plantation)



★ HUBS
1-69 SPOKES

Lower Mississippi
Delta Region
HERITAGE STUDY

CONCEPT 6
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE
IN THE DELTA

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CONCEPT 7: THE CIVIL WAR IN THE DELTA

GOAL

The goal of this concept is to illustrate that the "Lower Mississippi River Valley was the most critical theater of the Civil War." As presented in the recently published brochure *The Thousand Mile Front: Civil War in the Lower Mississippi Valley*, many significant battles and skirmishes occurred across the region. From Shiloh, Tennessee, to Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Pea Ridge, Arkansas, to New Orleans, Louisiana, the courageous sons and daughters of the North and South gave their lives in the war that split the nation. The region offers a variety of resources that recall the strategies that were planned, the men, women, and children whose lives were forever changed and the battles that occurred during the nation's conflict with itself.

IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE²

The election of Abraham Lincoln as president in 1860 changed the lives of all Americans almost overnight and the nation itself forever. Lincoln's belief that "a house divided against itself cannot stand," created a sense of crisis in the South and brought the issues that divided the nation into sharp focus.

The Mississippi River became the focal point in the war plans of both sides. "The Father of Waters" had moved lumber, wheat, corn, and meat from the Midwest, cotton and tobacco from the Upper South to New Orleans, and European goods upriver. Control of the Mississippi and the rivers that flow into it

would allow the North to move troops and supplies into the South while crippling the South's ability to survive. The South needed to protect itself, especially the rich farmland of the Mississippi River Valley, from Northern invasion. The Mississippi, carrier of commerce, became the bearer of dreams as a divided nation struggled with itself over its future.

The Civil War changed not only the South but the nation. War ravaged the South, destroying railroads, factories, and homes. The end of the Civil War brought an uneasy peace, but was followed by one of the most traumatic periods in American history — Reconstruction. During that period, the Lower Mississippi Valley would also play an important role.

RESOURCES

This concept, based on the map of "Thousand Mile Front" focuses on those resources related to battles and/or skirmishes that occurred during the Civil War in the Lower Mississippi Delta. Today visitors can learn about the Civil War at National Park Service sites, including Shiloh National Military Park, Shiloh, Tennessee, Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi; state park units like Fort Pillow State Historic Area, Fulton, Tennessee, or Columbus-Belmont Battlefield State Park, Columbus, Kentucky. Many small local museums also contain Civil War memorabilia and local histories. Roadside plaques and monuments commemorate events and military leaders from the Delta.

² Material is taken from *The Thousand Mile Front* brochure, which reflects a collective effort of Civil War historians, universities, preservationists, tourism officials, and private nonprofit partners. Because this effort was underway at the same time, the heritage study did not undertake additional research on the Civil War for this document.

RESOURCES

BATTLES AND SKIRMISHES — These sites represent the places where significant battles ensued between Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War. There are many more sites where troops were garrisoned, local residents fortified their towns against the threat of war, and where plans were hatched to foil the enemy. This concept draws on the work of the Civil War Heritage Task Force that produced the brochure: *The Thousand Mile Front: Civil War in the Lower Mississippi Valley*.

Missouri

1. Westport
2. Deerfield
3. Carthage
4. Neosho
5. Republic
6. Springfield
7. Ozark
8. Hartsville
9. Pilot Knob
10. Cape Girardeau
11. Charleston
12. Belmont
13. New Madrid

Kentucky

14. Sacramento

Arkansas

15. Pea Ridge
16. Fayetteville
17. Prairie Grove
18. St. Francis
19. Prescott
20. Chidester
21. New Edinburg

22. St. Charles

23. Gillett

24. Lake Village

Tennessee

25. Tiptonville

26. Union City

27. Kenton

28. Rutherford

29. Dyer

30. Trenton

31. Humbolt

32. Denmark

33. Fulton

34. McKenzie

35. Parkers Crossroads

36. Lexington

37. Chesterfield

38. Clifton

39. Shiloh

40. Pocahontas

Mississippi

41. Corinth

42. Baldwin

43. Tupelo

44. Greenwood

45. Vicksburg

46. Jackson

47. Raymond

48. Port Gibson

49. Union Church

Louisiana

50. Port Hudson

51. Baton Rouge

52. Harrisonburg

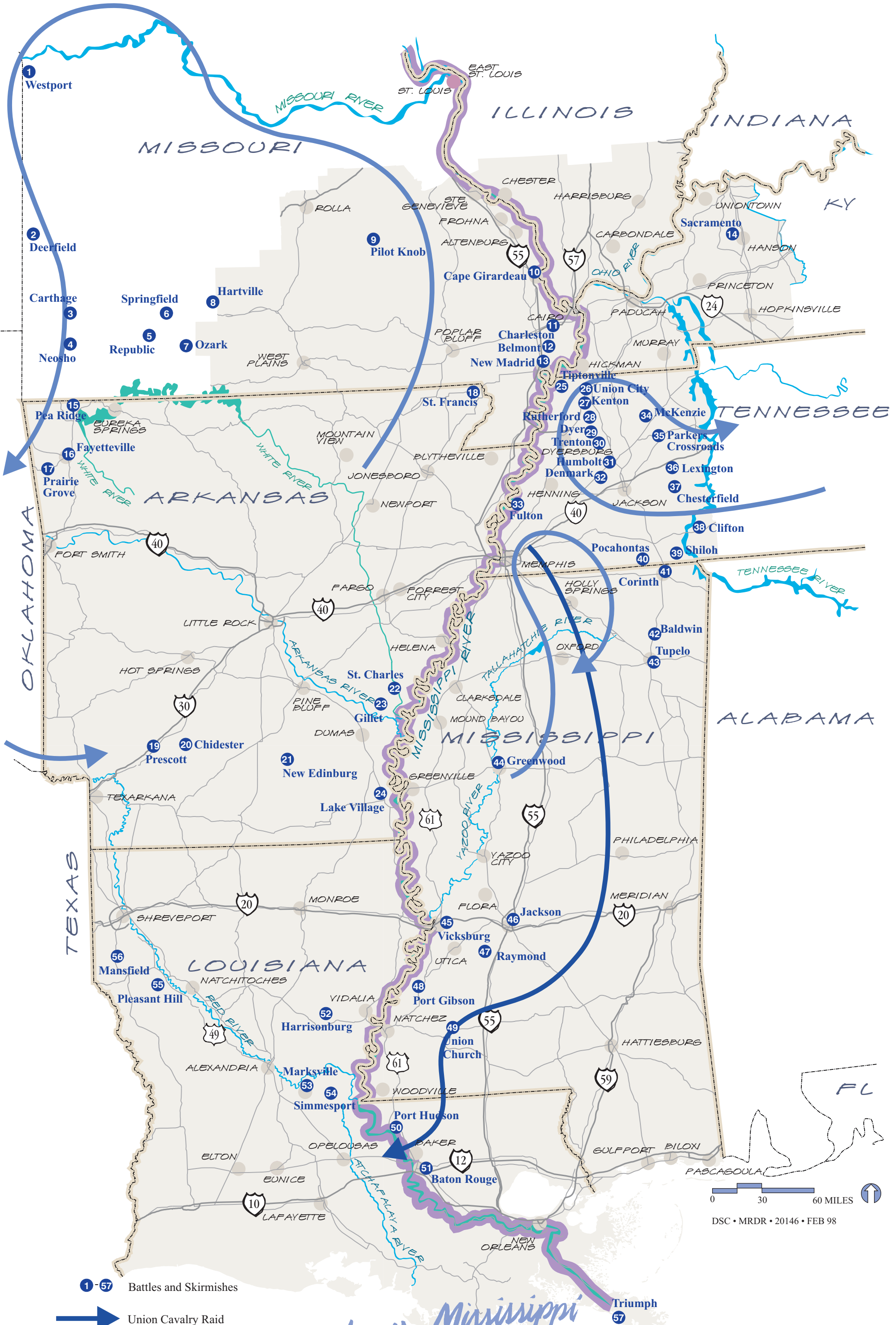
53. Marksfield

54. Simmesport

55. Pleasant Hill

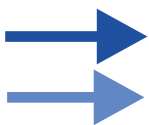
56. Mansfield

57. Triumph



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1-57 Battles and Skirmishes



Union Cavalry Raid



Confederate Cavalry Raids

NOTE: Information from "Thousand-Mile Front:
Civil War in the Lower Mississippi Valley"

Lower Mississippi
Delta Region

HERITAGE STUDY

CONCEPT 7
THE CIVIL WAR IN THE DELTA

CONCEPT 8: DELTA BLUES COMMEMORATIVE AREA

GOAL

The goal of this concept, like concepts 2 and 3, is to supply a base of information for implementation of section 1104 of the Delta Initiatives legislation which calls for recommendations for establishing a Delta music program with heavy emphasis on the blues. A commemorative area configuration would utilize the existing system of state welcome centers to introduce visitors to the history of the blues and would direct them to sites/resources important to the development of the blues. This would enable visitors and residents to better understand the connections between the landscape, the culture of the Delta, and most importantly, why the blues originated in the Delta.

IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE

Often perceived as flat and monotonous, the Delta is a place of powerful, fickle rivers that have shaped both the area's physical environment and its cultures. Over time, they have created a mosaic of landscapes and rich soil capable of nurturing majestic forests and huge harvests of cotton and other agricultural products. Yet the Delta remains a paradox: a land of natural wealth harboring poverty. It is a strongly separate place from the rest of America. In few other areas have the tensions characteristic of Southern society been more obvious between people and the natural world, between white and black people, between rich and poor.

To understand the blues, one must understand the Delta, must feel the Delta's oppressive heat, see the cotton fields, and grasp the poverty. The stimulating physical environment of storms, floods, hurricanes, extreme heat, and drought, bringing destruction, change, and renewal, served as a catalyst to the imagination and the development of the blues. People who sang and played the blues were tenant farmers and sharecroppers, not plantation owners.

The blues were developed by people engaged in struggle, infused with spirit and speaking in dialect. Rooted in African music, the blues were

songs of hope, born out of work and out of sorrow; from rhythmic work chants of railroad gangs and cotton pickers; from spirituals; from slave songs; and from the haunting and lyrical field hollers. It is said that misery produces creativity and resiliency. The blues tells stories of frustrated love, broken homes, and other miseries of displaced people. It is considered one of the most important root sources of modern popular music.

The Delta is the birthplace of blues artists such as Henry Sloan, Charley Patton, Robert Johnson, Tommy Johnson, Sonny Boy Williamson, Eddie "Son" House, Mississippi John Hurt, John Lee Hooker, "Big Bill" Broonzy, Muddy Waters, Albert King, and B.B. King to name just a few. These artists and many others who developed their unique style of Delta blues have influenced today's blues artists and brought a deeper appreciation of the blue's influence on modern music.

RESOURCES

Delta blues is still being performed at clubs and juke joints around the Delta. Visitors can also glimpse the landscape and imagine the conditions that gave rise to the blues by traveling U.S. Highway 61 past the cotton fields and small towns along the way. Remnants of the early blues may be found in recordings available at music stores and at various blues archives; at cultural centers that interpret the blues such as the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale, Mississippi and the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, Arkansas; plantations such as Dockery Farms where the blues began; various communities which were the birthplaces of famous blues musicians, sites where they played, cemeteries where they are buried, commemorative markers, and other sites of interest; blues festivals; and the levees, porches, prisons, highways, byways, and pathways that gave birth to the blues.

RESOURCES

State Welcome Centers

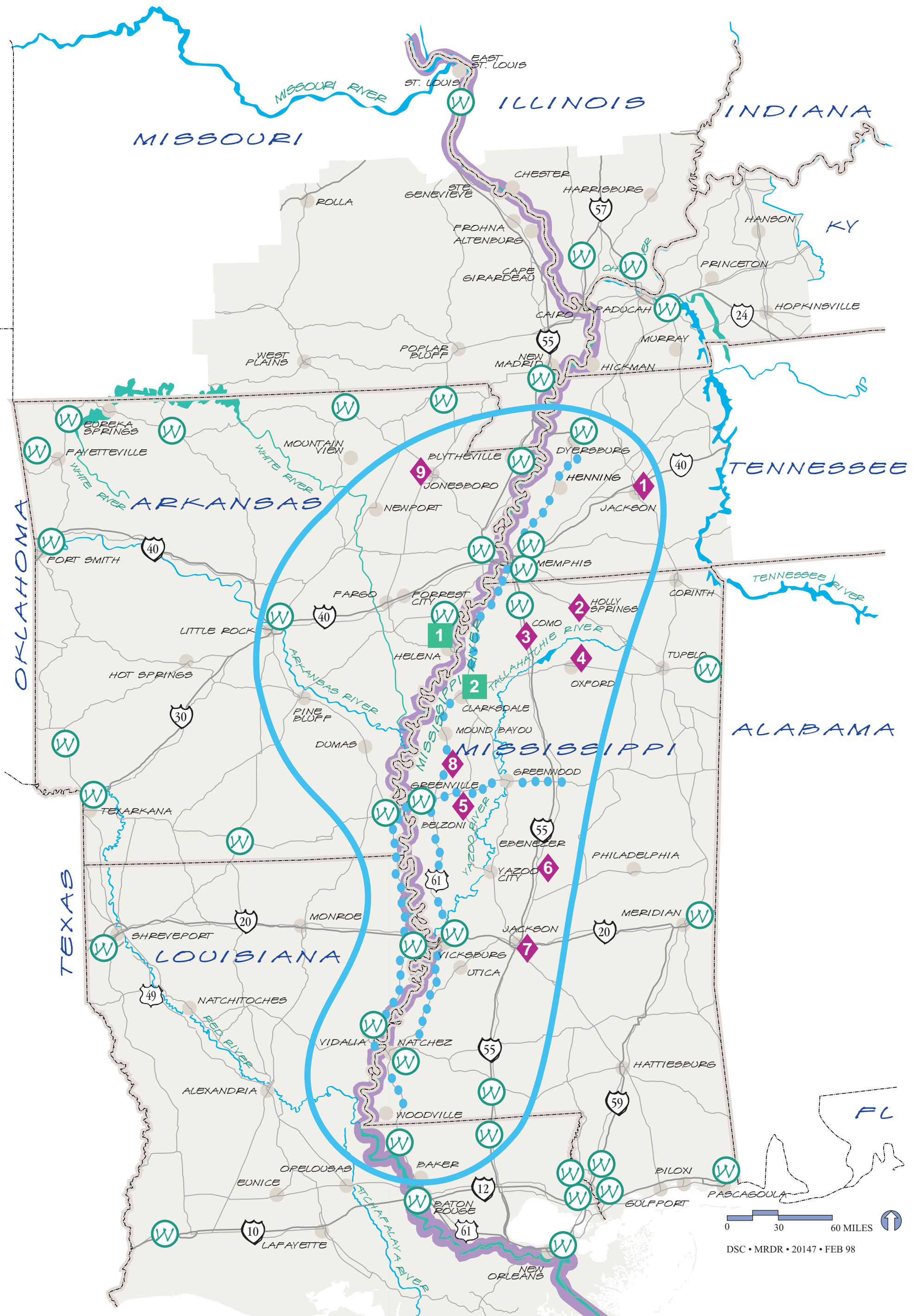
Delta Cultural/Interpretive Centers

1. Delta Cultural Center (Helena, Arkansas)
2. Delta Blues Museum (Clarksdale, Mississippi)

Other Sites of Interest

Marked gravesites, railroad crossings (where the "Southern meets the Dog"), the Mississippi River levee system, various plantations (Dockery Farms), and "juke joints" are all sites where the blues began and developed into its own style. Highway 61, called the "Blues Highway" — multiple sites of interest documenting the history of the blues. The resources below represent museums and resources are also points of interests for learning more or listening to the blues.

1. Lane College (Jackson, Tennessee)
2. Rust College (Holly Springs, Mississippi)
3. Como, Mississippi
4. Center for the Study of Southern Culture; Blues Archives, University of Mississippi (Oxford, Mississippi)
5. Morgan City, Mississippi
6. Ebenezer, Mississippi
7. Jackson, Mississippi
8. Arkansas State University, Delta Blues symposium (Jonesboro, Arkansas)



-  STATE WELCOME CENTERS
-  -  DELTA INTERPRETIVE/
CULTURAL CENTERS
-  TOUR ROUTES
(INCLUDES NUMEROUS SITES)
-  -  OTHER SITES OF INTEREST
(NOT ALONG BLUES TOUR ROUTE)

Lower Mississippi
Delta Region
HERITAGE STUDY

CONCEPT 8
DELTA BLUES
COMMEMORATIVE AREA

CONCEPT 9: CELEBRATING DELTA AGRICULTURE

GOAL

The goal of this concept is to illustrate the important role the development of agriculture and agricultural practices have played in the evolution of social and economic systems of the Delta and their impacts on the nation.

IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE

Inhabitants of the Delta region have long capitalized on the area's plentiful natural resources. The fertile soil, moderate climate, and abundant water supply provided ideal conditions for growing a variety of agricultural crops including corn, squash, tobacco, and indigo, but more significantly, timber, sugar cane, rice, and "king" cotton.

The early 1800s saw thousands of farmers surging west into the Mississippi valley. Land was rich, easy to acquire, seemed unlimited, and was exploited to the fullest. As the population grew across the region, farmers cleared forests, drained swamps, and cultivated cotton. For more than 100 years, "king" cotton dominated agriculture in the Delta. The plantation system, with its ownership of land, tools, and labor force flourished. Regarded by plantation owners as the most efficient method to meet the ever-increasing demand for cotton it became an economic as well as social control system. With the abolition of slavery and the Civil War, the plantation system collapsed, however, the legacy of that system can be seen in the physical remains of antebellum mansions and remnants of slave quarters and outbuildings throughout the Delta.

Early in the 19th century, Delta farming was accomplished mostly by hand labor often provided by slaves on a plantation. A few crude wooden tools assisted farming efforts until human power shifted to animal power in conjunction with new labor-saving devices, including steel or iron plows and corn and cotton planters.

After the Civil War, improved and new machinery enabled an increase in a farm's cultivated acreage, and boosted corn, cotton, and tobacco production

immensely. Many former slaves worked as tenants or sharecroppers on southern farms. Others migrated to urban areas in hopes of employment and higher wages.

Mechanization was slow in coming to the South, but by the end of WWII the horse age in farming was over. Many southern farmers ceased growing cotton and began raising soybeans, poultry, and cattle. Cotton production moved into west Texas, Arizona, and California under irrigation, while sugarcane and rice continued to be commercial crops in the Delta. Developments such as chemical fertilizers, insecticides, better crop strains, and improved farm machinery enabled farmers to cultivate more land and handle more livestock with less labor. Advances in science and technology lessened the need for laborers, and the number of farmers declined.

Trends in agriculture at the end of the 20th century include organic farming, less dependence on chemicals in response to environmental concerns, and farm production and distribution in the hands of corporations. Commercial agriculture has become a capital-intensive, rather than labor-intensive, specialized business.

"Agriculture was a powerful engine behind American economic development in the first half of the nineteenth century" (Foner and Garraty 1996). The Delta region was a prime contributor to the country's agricultural based economy. Before the Civil War, farm products comprised up to 82% of all exports, and cotton was especially important on the international market. Farm exports brought in foreign currency for investment in the country's transportation and manufacturing ventures. In addition, domestic farms supplied raw materials for the nation's leading manufacturers, including textiles and food products. Agriculture remained the most important activity in the Delta region's economy for nearly 200 years.

Today evidence of the earthquake phenomenon in this and the surrounding region is intimately related to the archeology. The incredible volumes of sand that erupted during the 1811-1812 earthquake events buried and preserved many of

CONCEPTS

Today evidence of the earthquake phenomenon in this and the surrounding region is intimately related to the archeology. The incredible volumes of sand that erupted during the 1811–1812 earthquake events buried and preserved many of the archeology sites known today in the region. An educational opportunity exists today for students and visitors to learn about the geologic and cultural history discoveries of this fascinating area.

RESOURCES

Existing resources such as museums, historic sties, scenic highways and byways, and agricul-

tural fairs and festivals that demonstrate the importance of agriculture for the Delta would be used for implementing this concept.

Highway 165, the north/south corridor between Alexandria and Monroe is important in the history of Louisiana's timber industry. There are few structures remaining that recall the importance of the industry but small towns, including Clarks, Good Pine, Tioga, Woodworth, and Long Leaf contain properties from the National Register of Historic Places.

RESOURCES

Arkansas

14. Plantation Agriculture Museum, Scott
17. Good Earth Association, Inc., Pocahantes
18. Fargo Agricultural School Museum, Fargo
19. Lephieur Cotton Gin, Dermott
20. Stuttgart Agricultural Museum, Stuttgart
21. The Old Mill, Mountain View

Illinois

1. Sauers Milling Company, Evansville
2. Walton Farms, LTD, Anna
3. Consolidated Grain and Barge Company, Mound City

Kentucky

4. The Homeplace – 1850, Golden Pond
5. University of Kentucky Research and Education Center, Princeton

Louisiana

29. Cotton Road Plantations of South and Central Louisiana
30. Cane River Plantation Tours
31. Creole Plantations of Cane River in Alexandria/Pineville area
32. Louisiana Cotton Museum, Lake Providence
33. Jeanerette Museum, along LA's Old Spanish Trail on Highway 182
34. Martin Homeplace Folklife Center, Columbia
35. Tobasco County Store and Visitor Center, Avery Island
36. Destrehan Plantation, Destrehan
37. Laura: A Creole Plantation, Vacherie
38. Magnolia Mound Plantation, Baton Rouge
39. LSU Rural Life Museum, Baton Rouge
40. Cinclare Sugar Mill, Baton Rouge Parish
41. West Baton Rouge Museum
42. Nottoway Plantation, White Castle
43. Tezeuco Plantation, Arrow
44. Kent Plantation House, Alexandria
45. Houmas House, Burnside
46. St. Francisville – Butler, Greenwood, Rosedown, Oakley

47. French Creole – Godhcaux Plantation House
48. Good Pine Lumber Company, LaSalle Parish
49. Rapides Lumber Company Sawmill manager's house
50. "The Oasis," in Clarks
51. Crowell Sawmill Historic District, Long Leaf
52. Tioga Commissary in Tioga
53. Alexander State Forest headquarters building in Rapides Parish
54. Louisiana Forestry Museum/Political Museum and Hall of Fame in Winnfield
55. Creedmore, along San Bernardo Scenic Byway (LA 46)
56. Magnolia Plantation, on St. Bernard driving tour, circa 1794
57. Oak Alley Plantation, Vacherie
58. Konriko, New Iberia

Mississippi

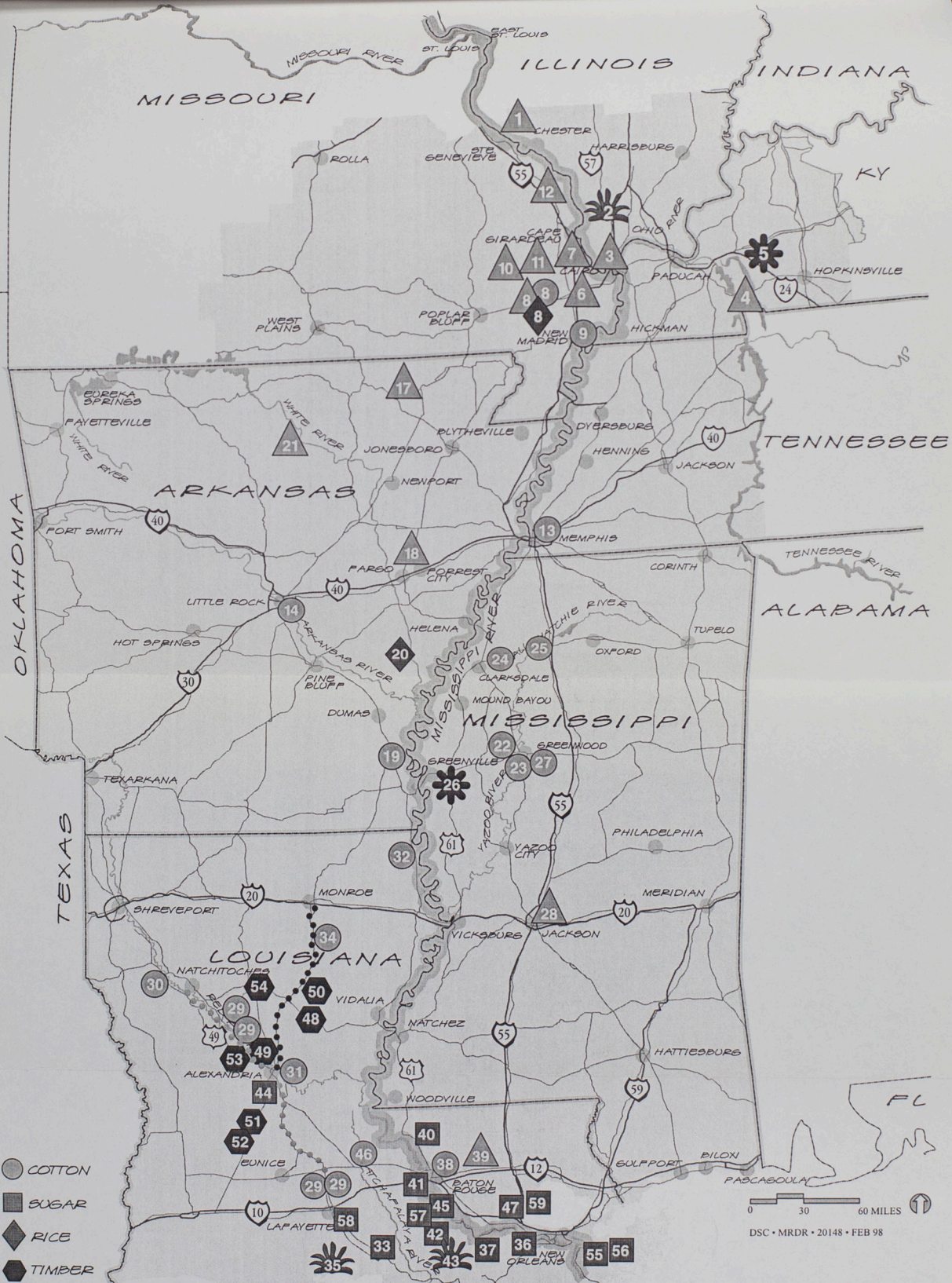
22. Floewood River Plantation, Greenwood
23. Cottonlandia Museum, Greenwood
24. County Extension Office, Clarksdale
25. Hopson Plantation Headquarters and Commissary, Clarksdale
26. U.S. Department of Agriculture/Mississippi State University Research Facility, Stoneville
27. Cotton Row District, Greenwood
28. Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry/National Agricultural Aviation Museum, Jackson, MS

Missouri (*Sites are accessible from Great River Road*)

6. Southeast Missouri Agricultural Museum, Bertrand Scott County
7. American Heritage Museum, Scott City
8. Agri-Business Farm Tours from Sikeston
9. A.C. Riley Cotton Gin, along New Madrid driving tour, New Madrid
10. Dillard Mill State Historic Site, Dillard
11. Bollinger Mill State Historic Site, Burfordville
12. Old Appleton Mill, between Cape Girardeau and St. Genevieve

Tennessee

13. Cotton Row Walking Tour, Memphis



- COTTON
- SUGAR
- ◆ RICE
- ⬡ TIMBER
- ✿ OTHER AGRICULTURAL CROPS: TOBACCO, WOOL
- ▲ GRAIN MILLS, AGRICULTURE RELATED MUSEUMS, AND EARLY SETTLEMENTS
- ✱ AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FACILITIES
- TIMBER TOUR HWY 165
- COTTON TOUR HWY 49

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Lower Mississippi Delta Region

HERITAGE STUDY

CONCEPT 9

CELEBRATING DELTA AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION

This section describes four alternatives for managing visitor use, resource stewardship, and management alternatives. The alternatives are presented in the order of increasing visitor use, resource stewardship, and management alternatives. The alternatives are presented in the order of increasing visitor use, resource stewardship, and management alternatives.

The management alternatives could be used to implement the visitor use, resource stewardship, and management alternatives. The alternatives could be used to implement the visitor use, resource stewardship, and management alternatives.

Today's technology allows the collection of information on visitor use, resource stewardship, and management alternatives.

The management alternatives could be used to implement the visitor use, resource stewardship, and management alternatives. The alternatives could be used to implement the visitor use, resource stewardship, and management alternatives.



VISITOR USE, RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP, AND MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This section contains four alternatives for conserving, managing, and using the Delta's heritage resources. Together with the concepts presented in the previous section, the management alternatives give Congress a range of options for implementing sections 1103 and 1104 of the Delta Initiatives legislation and suggest for federal, state, and local agencies and organizations viable alternatives for establishing heritage tourism initiatives in the Delta.

The management alternatives could be used for implementing any of the previous 10 concepts individually or could be used to package and manage several of the concepts together. State or local agencies or organizations might want to implement one or all of the concepts independently of federal funding or involvement and these alternatives could easily be modified to meet those needs.

Today's technology allows for the dissemination of information in ways not

available to former generations. Heritage preservation programs, tourism initiatives, and economic development strategies are found on the Internet, as part of interactive computer programs and multimedia educational presentations. Residents, educators, historic preservationists, and tourism officials across the Delta agree that a basic mode of disseminating information about the Delta must include a technological component. Alternative D in this document presents strategies for developing a heritage information network throughout the Delta. Although this alternative could be implemented independent of the other alternatives it should also be considered an integral part of alternatives A, B, and C.

The concepts presented in this document are key to understanding the Delta — its people, places, and historical events — within a national context. The alternatives presented in this section are key to organizing, managing, and sustaining the concepts.

ALTERNATIVE A: LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA HERITAGE TOURISM INITIATIVE

Heritage tourism is one of the fastest growing segments of the nation's tourism industry and is projected to continue growing well into the 21st century. This alternative would establish the Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Partnership to coordinate, plan, fund, and implement a regional tourism strategy for the Delta. Drawing on recommendations from the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission this heritage partnership would promote and market the Lower Mississippi Delta as a major travel destination, focusing on the natural, cultural, and historical heritage of the region.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The following 10 concepts, drawn from the stories of the Delta and presented earlier in the document, form the basis of the visitor experience and interpretation for this heritage tourism initiative.

Comprehensive Concept: Stories of the Delta
1) Natural Resources — The Heart of the Delta
2) Transforming the Mississippi River: Manipulating the Mississippi River System to Facilitate Navigation and Manage Flood Flows
3) New Madrid Earthquakes/ Seismic Zone
4) The People: Encountering the Cultural Diversity of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region
5) Native American Heritage in the Delta
6) African-American Heritage in the Delta
7) The Civil War in the Lower Mississippi Delta
8) Delta Blues Commemorative Area
9) Delta Agriculture

By focusing on these concepts visitors would

- encounter, understand, and appreciate the varied cultural heritages of the Delta
- learn of the events or opportunities that delivered such a diversity of peoples to the region, of the fluidity with which the cultures sometimes mingled, and the conflicts

and accommodations that accompanied such a mingling of diverse cultures

- discover the tangible expressions of the Delta's many cultural influences, i.e. architecture, art, literature, music, festivals, institutions, religions, and traditional ceremonies
- observe and understand the geophysical transformation and the human manipulation of the Mississippi River system and the lower Delta over the centuries
- discover the abundant and varied natural resources of the Mississippi River system and their importance to the ecological health and well being of systems well beyond the Delta region
- explore the river towns that arose along the banks of the Mississippi River system and reflect both the evolution of transportation along the river and the economic impact of those changes over time.
- understand and appreciate the connection between the river system and the rise of agriculture in the Delta
- understand the role of Delta agriculture in the social, labor, and economic systems in the Delta and the nation

ORIENTATION/INFORMATION

The heritage partnership would utilize existing tourist information centers along the primary highway systems to create an orientation/information network in the Delta. The centers would provide information on sites, museums, cultural centers, and communities to visit as well as brochures for driving, biking, and hiking tours. In addition, the centers would provide information on lodging and food services available in the Delta. An up-to-date calendar of events would be distributed for

upcoming festivals, celebrations, and other events in the Delta.

The heritage partnership would coordinate the distribution of materials in the Delta to ensure that visitors receive an orientation to the entire Delta, regardless of which tourist information center they visit. Each tourist information center would offer information on all nine concepts would direct travelers to museums, cultural centers, historic sites, or natural resource sites throughout the Delta. A variety of media would be used to disseminate information on the 10 concepts, including interactive computer kiosks, maps, brochures, and video and audio tapes.

In addition to tourist information centers, signs installed at key locations could direct visitors and residents to sites of interest throughout the Delta. A travelers low-frequency radio network might be installed at gateway locations around the Delta.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Interpretation

An integrated system of programs, facilities, sites, exhibits, publications, videos, and Internet sites that present and interpret the nine concepts listed above would be integral to the heritage partnerships work in developing interpretive programs for the Delta. The stories of the Delta and the concepts that reflect them would be presented within the context of the entire region. Emphasis would be placed on telling aspects of all 10 concepts and interpreting the interconnectedness of all the stories of the Delta.

It is envisioned that once visitors received information at one of the tourist information centers, they would then drive, bike, hike, or boat to existing interpretive or cultural centers that focus on one or more of the seven concepts presented in this study. Along the way visitors would experience the Delta landscape — along levees and historic trails and roads, through towns and cities, and along the greatest landscape feature of all — the Mississippi River.

A transportation system comprised of existing roads, rivers, potential abandoned railroad right-of-ways, and hiking trails could be developed, packaged, and marketed for the heritage area.

Education

The heritage partnership would coordinate and implement development of educational programs related to the stories of the Delta. Vital to visitors' understanding and appreciating the complex heritage of the Delta is Delta residents' understanding and appreciating the importance of their own heritage. Children and adults alike interact with visitors on a daily basis and are key interpreters of the region's history and heritage. Educating children early in their school years and holding workshops for adults at community centers and area schools and colleges will help foster a sense of pride and ownership in the stories and resources of the Delta for the people for whom the Delta is home.

An educational program could be developed that would provide opportunities for all levels of education. The curriculum could be designed to be used in a variety of ways. It might be used as the framework for a thematic, cross curricular unit on Delta heritage. Individual lessons might be used to tie with other areas of classroom study; e.g., geography, math, spelling. Lessons could be designed to stand alone and might be taught in any order. Lessons and activities would employ a number of different teaching methods to address the needs of a variety of classroom situations. The curriculum would be flexible and creative.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

The natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Delta will serve as the stimulus for heritage tourism development and marketing. These resources must be protected and preserved if the heritage partnership is to meet its full potential and if future generations will be able to experience and understand the region's rich past.

Historic and Cultural Resources.

Historic and cultural resources provide an important link to the past and are key to understanding the present and future. Many of the Delta's important resources have already been lost through development, neglect, lack of funding and expertise for protection, natural disasters, poverty, and/or lack of recognition of the importance of preserving heritage resources.

Preservation of historic and cultural resources would include resource surveys, historic preservation education programs, development of historic districts and publication of guidelines and manuals. In addition to resource surveys, documentation efforts would include collecting, archiving, and making available oral histories, historic and current photographs and architectural drawings, blue prints, maps, and appropriate artifacts. Education programs would present appropriate treatment and storage of the collection to ensure their preservation for future use. As other important resources are identified, documentation efforts would also include the preparation of national register nominations and the establishment of local ordinance districts.

Cultural landscapes help define and illustrate important physical features in the Delta. Cotton fields, gins, and cotton bales beside the road in Mississippi recall the days of "King Cotton" and illustrate the abiding presence of agriculture in today's economy in the Delta. Many of the Delta's landscapes are changing, however, as development encroaches on those features that recall the region's agricultural and labor heritage. It will be important to work with private landowners and communities to survey and define the important landscape features of the region, nominate appropriate landscapes to the national register, and interpret the changing nature of the landscape.

Natural Resources

The Lower Mississippi Delta provides habitat and ecological support for a wide variety of flora, fauna and aquatic species. The Mississippi river forms the most important bird and

waterfowl migration corridor on the continent while the river bottoms comprise North America's largest wetland area and bottom land hardwood forest. Regional tourism and resource strategies should encourage local jurisdictions to be pro-active in creating easements or land management programs to protect and conserve these vital resources.

Opportunities may exist for partnering with one or more landowners and/or public agencies to conserve natural resources in the region. Important activities which might be part of a natural resource stewardship program might include conservation partnerships, open space initiatives, innovative conservation and land management mechanisms, and protection of important roads, capes and scenic view sheds.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

This alternative proposes using existing tourist information centers and the development of various media for the dissemination of information to tourists in the Delta. No new facility development is recommended as part of this alternative.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Partnership

Under this management approach, a coalition of State representatives and local and private tourism organizations would form a Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Partnership to focus on the coordination, planning, funding, implementation and management of heritage tourism efforts in the region. This strategy would also require federal legislation, however, the primary leadership responsibilities would reside at the State level. The primary emphasis would be providing direction and guiding the development of a comprehensive information and orientation network and a tourism/ economic development/marketing initiative.

Membership

The heritage partnership would be comprised of state tourism representatives, educational institutions, and representatives from local and private sector tourism organizations. The partnership would provide a framework that would bring together existing public and private tourism initiatives and programs and would focus on creating new ones as needed.

Partnership members would be appointed by the governors of each state and would reflect the region's rich cultural diversity and represent a diversity of heritage resources found in the Delta. The partnership's chair position would rotate so that each state would have the opportunity to assume a leadership role within the partnership.

The number of members of the heritage partnership would be approximately 15 to enable the partnership to focus primarily on tourism development and marketing. Leadership responsibilities would reside at the state level. Federal involvement would be provided by ex-officio members of the concerned federal agencies in the Delta. It is suggested that the partnership establish subregional advisory committees for planning and implementing the nine concepts presented earlier.

Functions

The partnership would have a formalized management structure that would define the roles and responsibilities of the different participants and coordinate their efforts. The partnership would have its own executive director and staff skilled in heritage tourism. Federal government staff could be detailed for helping with the planning and implementation of heritage tourism efforts.

The partnership would be responsible for: (1) Preparation and approval of a heritage tourism plan for the lower Mississippi Delta. The plan would focus on defining the desired visitor experience; providing direction for tourism and economic development; outlining an information and orientation network; and defining interpretation and educational opportunities. (2)

Coordination of public agencies and private sector heritage tourism initiatives at the state, local, and federal levels. (3) Serving as a central clearinghouse for heritage tourism information and ensuring an adequate flow of information to all segments of the tourism industry in the Delta. (4) Providing technical assistance to communities and other entities interested in heritage tourism development. (5) Developing standards and criteria for signs, heritage tourism development, informational and interpretive media such as brochures, self-guided tours, videos, and wayside exhibits that provide a broad context for the stories of the Delta. (6) Preparing and implementing a 10-year strategic plan.

Funding

The partnership would have the authority, through federal legislation, to receive federal funds. These funds would require a match of in-kind services and/or financial support. Funding would be for planning, set-up, coordination among various entities, and seed money for implementation of projects. It is envisioned that a 10-year strategic plan would be prepared, approved and implemented. The plan would address economic development, marketing approaches that support new tourism products, and the level and funding sources for planning, designing, and implementing the nine concepts presented in this document.

At the conclusion of the initial 10-year period, each state would establish a funding mechanism to provide for participation in the partnership as well as implementation of the strategic plan focusing primarily on heritage tourism. This approach would ensure that the comprehensive effort is self-sustaining and that the staff continue with the partnership's mission.

Funding for implementing the 10-year strategic plan would come from a variety of public and private sources outlined in the economic development portion of the strategic plan.

Estimated Costs

This approach is focused primarily on heritage tourism and working largely at the state and local levels. Federal funding would be provided for a 10-year period at a cost not to exceed \$500,000 per year or \$5 million total. These

funds would be used for staff salaries and office set up, administration, and preparation of a heritage tourism plan and 10-year strategic plan. The states and local levels of government as well as the private sector will provide other sources of funding to implement much of the 10-year strategic plan.

ALTERNATIVE B: LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Heritage areas form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. This alternative is offered in recognition of the distinctive landscapes of the Delta and the human interaction with that landscape over thousands of years. It is recognized that heritage areas have been organized and designated in several areas of the country over the last 10 years and although the concept is a viable one, it has not been undertaken within such a large geographic area. Local and regional support for a Delta wide heritage area designation must take into consideration the large area and the need for special coordination and communication challenges inherent in such an undertaking.

The Lower Mississippi Delta is a vast and vital part of the American landscape. This broad alluvial valley provides habitat and ecological support for a wide variety of flora, fauna, and aquatic species. The Mississippi River forms the most important bird and waterfowl migration corridor on the continent. At the same time the Delta's cultural traditions area as rich as its natural resources. This is a land of converging cultures with a unique complexity and density of history, prehistory, and cultural expression.

The richness of the region's natural, cultural, and historical resources and the stories of the Delta that make this region worthy of national attention may offer an opportunity to organize and coordinate heritage tourism efforts within a National Heritage Area configuration. This heritage area would focus on the Lower Mississippi River systems, the natural and cultural landscapes that reflect the river's influences over time, and the rich diversity of people whose traditions have helped shape those landscapes.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

As in alternative A this alternative would use the seven concepts based on the "Stories of the Delta" as the core of the visitor experience for

the Lower Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area.

ORIENTATION/INFORMATION

The orientation/information aspect of this alternative would be the same as alternative A with heavy emphasis on utilizing existing tourist information centers. For this alternative a lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Commission would take the lead in disseminating information and providing comprehensive orientation to the Delta and its resources.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

The interpretation and education programs outlined in alternative A would also apply to this alternative.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Historic, Cultural, and Natural Resources

Historic, cultural, and natural resource stewardship efforts would be the same as in alternative A. The Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Area Commission could allow for more comprehensive and coordinated efforts.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

As in alternative A this alternative proposes that existing tourist information centers along the primary highway systems in the Delta be used to disseminate information about the Delta heritage area. No new facility development is proposed for this alternative.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Commission

Under this management approach, a Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Commission would be created through enactment of federal legislation. This Deltawide entity would be established to oversee, coordinate, provide direction, and guide the development of a comprehensive information and orientation network, an interpretation and education program, a historical and cultural preservation program, a natural resource conservation and education program, and a tourism economic development/marketing initiative. Leadership under this approach would be provided at the federal level with extensive involvement at all levels of state and local government, educational institutions, the private sector, and interested groups and individuals.

Membership

The commission would represent a wider partnership of public and private resources than alternative A and would provide a framework to bring together existing public and private sector initiatives and programs and create new ones as needed. Commission members would be appointed by the secretary of the interior and would reflect the rich cultural diversity of the Delta. The secretary would appoint commission members after considering recommendations from a variety of sources to ensure broad representation of all levels of government and the private sector.

It is suggested that the commission be comprised of a representative from each state government, a person from each state representing local government, representatives from the major federal government agencies in lower Mississippi Delta, as well as a person representing the public from each state. It would be desirable if the commission were comprised of professionals from education, tourism, economic development, arts and the humanities, historic preservation, parks and recreation, transportation, business, and agriculture. The greater and wider variety of partners at all

levels would enable leveraging resources and moving forward on many fronts.

An important partner for this management approach would be the region's universities, colleges, and community colleges. This alternative presents an opportunity to establish and nourish strong partnerships among tourism, heritage preservation, and education communities. Historically black colleges and universities in the study area, the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, the new Delta Studies Center at Arkansas State University, Amistad Research Center at Tulane University, as well as others, contain existing infrastructures for heritage and historic research, economic analysis, and worker training — all important elements for successfully implementing this alternative. Membership of educational institutions on a Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Commission would bring an added dimension vital to protecting and promoting the region's important resources.

Due to the vastness of the lower Mississippi Delta and the abundance of resources and stories, it is suggested that the commission appoint seven committees to work closely with commission members to plan and implement the concepts presented earlier. Committee chairpersons would be drawn from all seven states and could be appointed by the commission after receiving input from concerned agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Functions

The commission would have a formalized management structure that would define the roles and responsibilities of all the different participants and coordinate their efforts. The commission would have its own staff managed by an executive director. Staff members would be skilled in providing assistance in planning, marketing, historic preservation, tourism, economic development, and grant writing.

The commission would be responsible for: (1) preparation and approval of a comprehensive management plan for the lower Mississippi Delta. The plan would define the desired visitor

experience; provide direction for tourism and economic development, historic preservation, and natural resource conservation; identify education initiatives and programs; determine the level and sources of funding for implementing the nine concepts; (2) making loans and grants for the purpose of conserving and protecting sites, buildings, and objects which are related to the natural, cultural, historical, and recreational heritage of the areas; (3) coordinating the activities of federal, state, and local governments as well as educational institutions, private sector initiatives, and public interest projects which further historic preservation, visitor use, preservation, and compatible economic revitalization; (4) providing advice and assistance in preparation of loan or grant applications; (5) disseminating information related to heritage tourism efforts throughout the Delta region, the country, and internationally, utilizing a variety of media, including, but not limited to, Internet technology, newsletters, brochures, television and radio programs, CDs and (6) entering into cooperative agreements with others to purchase, rent, or receive donations of properties or interests in properties for conveyance to an appropriate public agency for use for public purposes.

Funding

Federal funding for commission activities, including salaries, planning and implementation could be up to \$1.5 million per year not to exceed ten years. The investment of federal funding is intended to provide for planning, set-up, and initial seed money for implementation. It is envisioned that these funds will be available to appropriate projects on a matching basis, whether it be a financial match and/or in-kind services. The commission would also be eligible for technical assistance on an annual basis based on the merits of their projects judged against other heritage area projects. An economic plan would be prepared concurrently with the comprehensive management plan (CMP) to identify potential public and private funding sources for implementation of the CMP.

At the conclusion of the initial 10-year period, a private/nonprofit group could be federally

chartered to further fund raising and investment efforts, establish continued economic analysis and marketing strategies, and serve as project managers for implementing the heritage tourism projects proposed in the CMP. This group would be self-sustaining and would continue to operate on a Deltawide basis. It is hoped that the staff from the commission would continue to function as outlined above.

Estimated Costs

Initial federal investment for this management alternative would be \$15 million (\$1.5 million x 10 years). It is recognized that current funding levels for existing heritage areas is not this high, however, the large geographic area and increased coordination and communication efforts would warrant this larger funding amount. In addition, because this alternative expands the focus of Delta heritage tourism beyond tourism development and marketing the cost to the federal government would be more than alternative A. These funds would be used for staff salaries and office set up, administration cost for the commission, comprehensive management plan, and economic plan preparation as well as initial implementation of projects.

It must be recognized that the cost of implementing the CMP would require funding beyond the initial \$15 million federal investment and would require a public/private partnership approach. The economic plan developed by the commission would give direction for initiating and sustaining funding for the heritage area.

The following are examples of projects that might be identified in the CMP that would need specific funding strategies:

- Information/orientation media and materials
- Interpretive media and materials
- Educational media and materials
- Signing and/or any facility development along heritage corridors and routes
- Resource surveys and national register nominations

ALTERNATIVE C: LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA HERITAGE CENTERS

In their final report to the president and Congress in 1990 the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission made recommendations for the creation and development of centers for the preservation of the cultural, historical, and literary heritage of the Delta region. The report also included recommendations for establishing a Delta Region Native American Heritage and Cultural Center and a Delta Region African-American Heritage and Cultural Center with additional satellite centers or museums linked throughout the Delta region.

This alternative, based on the commission's recommendations and sections 1103 and 1104 of Public Law 103-433 (Lower Mississippi Delta Region Initiatives), proposes the establishment of seven heritage/cultural centers in the Delta region. A heritage/cultural center would be located in each state of the study area (southern Illinois, southeastern Missouri, western Kentucky, western Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana) and would focus on interpreting the "Stories of the Delta" as represented in this study's 10 concepts.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

As in alternatives A and B the 10 concepts based on the "Stories of the Delta" would be the basis for the visitor experience and interpretation at each of the seven heritage centers.

ORIENTATION/INFORMATION

Each state would use a variety of media to alert travelers to the location of the Delta Heritage Center in their state. Brochures, maps, and video and audio tapes would be available at tourist information centers along the primary highway systems. In addition each state would include information about the center at their Internet site on the World Wide Web. Signs installed at key locations could also direct visitors and residents to the heritage centers.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Interpretation

Interpretation of the Stories of the Delta and the concepts that reflect them would be presented within the context of the entire Delta region at each heritage center. Each center would feature an overview of Delta heritage and would also present material on the Delta heritage of that particular state. It would be important for the centers to coordinate and exchange exhibits and interpretive material to ensure visitors receive a regional perspective of the Delta. A variety of interpretive media, including films, interactive computer programs, exhibits, brochures, and walking trails around the center would be used to convey to visitors the broad context of Delta heritage.

It is suggested that once visitors reviewed the interpretive programs at the heritage center they would be directed to other museums, historic sites, trails, or natural resource areas throughout the Delta to receive more in-depth information about a particular facet of Delta heritage. Driving, hiking, biking and/or boating tours could be developed in conjunction with the heritage centers and could direct visitors along the levees and historic trails and roads, through its towns and cities, and particularly leading visitors to the great body of water of myth and legend — the Mississippi River.

Education

Educational programs developed in conjunction with the Delta Heritage Centers could be used in local schools and communities to develop in children and adult residents an appreciation for and pride in their Delta heritage. Educational outreach programs could encourage residents to participate in oral history and folk life programs enriching the interpretive programs at the centers and preserving heritage resources for future generations.

An educational program could be developed that would provide opportunities for all levels

of education and participation. The curriculum could be designed to be used in a variety of ways. It might be used as the framework for a thematic, cross curricular unit on Delta heritage. Individual lessons might be focused on oral histories and/or folk ways. Lessons could be designed to stand alone and might be taught in any order. Lessons and activities could be initiated at the schools or at the heritage centers and would employ a number of different teaching methods to address the need of the students. The curriculum would be flexible, innovative, interactive, and creative.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

The Delta's natural, cultural, and historical resources are the core reasons for establishing seven Delta heritage centers. The centers would showcase the rich variety of resources found in the Delta and should include information on the importance of preserving and protecting them so that future generations might experience and understand the region's rich past.

Historic and Cultural Resources

Historic and cultural resources provide an important link to the past and are key to understanding the present and the future. It is suggested that each heritage center be established in a historic structure. The structure could be rehabilitated or adapted for use as a heritage center.

Since this alternative focuses on a single heritage center in each state as a heritage tourism strategy, resource preservation and protection strategies would be primarily programmatic and might take the form of technical assistance and/or educational programs.

Historic preservation programs could be developed in conjunction with the heritage centers and might include technical assistance in preparing National Register nominations, conducting resource surveys, and/or initiating oral history programs. Educational programs might address appropriate treatment and storage of artifact collections, appropriate

treatment of historic structures in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior standards, and/or developing exhibits at historic sites or local museums.

Natural Resources

The Lower Mississippi Delta provides habitat and ecological support for a wide variety of flora, fauna and aquatic species. The Mississippi River forms the most important bird and waterfowl migration corridor on the continent while the river bottoms comprise north America's largest wetland area and bottom land hardwood forest. Since this alternative focuses on a single heritage center in each state as a heritage tourism strategy, natural resource conservation strategies would be primarily programmatic and might take the form of technical assistance and/or educational programs.

Natural resource conservation programs could be developed in conjunction with the heritage centers and might include outreach programs, brochures, and/or demonstration projects in partnership with public or private landowners. Education programs might address the importance of the Delta's migration corridor and wetlands to the nation and the world or present a variety of conservation strategies whose goals include ensuring future generations enjoyment of the rich natural heritage of the Delta.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

This alternative proposes the construction of seven Delta heritage centers — one in each of the states in the study area. It is suggested that the centers be situated in historic structures if possible. If a structure of sufficient size could not be located and/or made available reasonably, new construction is proposed.

Congress would authorize the development of the seven heritage centers and would appropriate funds for their construction. The secretary of the interior would be authorized to establish criteria, in consultation with other concerned federal agencies and state representatives, for location, design, and development of interpretive media and exhibits for the

centers. The secretary would be responsible for overseeing construction of the facilities.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Center Task Force

Under this management approach seven Delta heritage centers would be constructed in the Delta. Congress would establish a Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Center Task Force to oversee the project. Once funds were appropriated by Congress, the secretary of the interior, as chair of the task force, would be responsible for planning, design, and construction of the centers. Once the centers were completed and interpretive media and exhibits were in place, the centers would become the responsibility of each state to staff, manage, and maintain.

It is envisioned that after the seven centers were completed, the task force would still be needed to ensure that programs and information would be coordinated between the seven centers.

Membership

To accomplish this joint undertaking of planning, design, and construction Congress would establish a Delta Heritage Center Task Force whose membership would include federal agencies and state government representatives and would reflect the cultural diversity of the region. One representative from each state would be appointed to the task force by the governors. The secretary of the interior, or his representative, would act as chairperson and would be responsible for ensuring completion of the task force's work. Representatives from other concerned federal agencies would also be appointed and would bring the number of members of the task force to 15 working members. The task force would develop and maintain a communication network and solicit input from the public at the appropriate times during the planning and design phases of the project.

Functions

The Delta Heritage Center Task Force would be responsible for: (1) developing criteria for site selection and design guide lines for development of the heritage centers; (2) communicating with and seeking input from Delta residents during the planning and design phases of the project; (3) overseeing design and construction of the seven heritage centers; and (4) turning the centers over to the governors of the respective states at the completion of the project.

Funding

Congress would authorize and appropriate funds for the planning, design, and construction of the seven heritage centers. Once the centers were complete the states would assume responsibility for maintaining, managing, and staffing the centers.

Cost Estimates

Land and/or structures would be donated by the states. In recognition of budgetary constraints and fiscal limitations for federal funding, a maximum of \$3 million in federal dollars per heritage/cultural center would be expended for this alternative. Each center would include an orientation/information desk, lobby, rest rooms, interpretive/education exhibits, a theater, office space, and adequate parking.

The funds for the centers might be allocated in one of several ways including: grants to each state for planning, design, and construction; funding match requirements; planning, design, and construction by the National Park Service and turning over the centers to the states upon completion; or matching requirements of funding and in-kind services. For any of these options federal funding would remain \$3 million per center. There would be no cost to the federal government to staff and maintain the facility, this would be the responsibility of each state when they assumed management responsibilities for the centers.

ALTERNATIVE D: SHARING DELTA HERITAGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The information age and the technology currently available for communicating and sharing information with a wide audience presents opportunities for establishing a Delta Heritage Information Network. The network would disseminate information on the rich natural, cultural, and historical legacy of the Delta, nationally and internationally, through the Internet, interactive computer programs and CD technology. In this alternative technology would become the vehicle for stimulating heritage tourism in the Lower Mississippi Delta for the 21st century and beyond.

This alternative proposes a two track approach to disseminating heritage information about the Delta. The first track would focus on reaching Delta residents through schools, public libraries, and communities. This track would especially target less prosperous Delta areas where Internet access is less common. The second track would target a national and international audience seeking heritage preservation and tourism information about the Delta.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The 10 concepts based on the "Stories of the Delta" would remain the basis for developing computer, video, and audio program, posters, and brochures for this alternative. Students and visitors would use various technologies to "experience" the Delta or to plan trips to the region to experience it first-hand.

ORIENTATION/INFORMATION

Unlike the first three alternatives, visitors to the Delta would explore the region via computers at local libraries, visitor centers, schools, community centers, and/or at home. The rich heritage of the Delta would be presented in such a way as to stimulate people to learn more about the area and to subsequently make vacation plans to visit some of the places they have visited on the Internet or through other computer programs.

The Internet sites would provide information, in entertaining and creative ways, on museums, cultural centers, and communities in the Delta and present the stories of the Delta as reflected in the 10 concepts developed in this study.

The network would be updated regularly and spotlight different stories, concepts, and sites at different times of the year. Like the other alternatives the Delta Heritage Information Network would focus on the entire Delta and would relate stories and sites within a regional context.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Interpretation

An integrated and interchangeable system of computer and Internet programs would be developed to implement this alternative. Current and everchanging and improving graphic technology would allow exciting new ways to present the Delta's rich heritage.

"Chat rooms" would allow ongoing dialogue and lively debates about the people, places, and events that have made the Delta a vital part of our national character. Exciting graphics and Delta games would challenge visitors to learn more about the Delta and its people and would offer opportunities for integrating the information into educational programs.

It is envisioned that once visitors to the Delta Heritage Network were introduced to the richness of this vast and exciting region, they would want to explore the region for themselves and would make plans to visit some of the places and people that had "experienced" on the network.

In addition to the interpretive information presented, as a part of each program, auto, boat, bike, and hiking tour information would also be presented and travelers would be able to secure reservations for hotels, performances, and tours in the region. Video, CDS, and cassette tapes would be developed to make a wide variety of media available to all visitors.

The Delta Heritage Information Network could become a vital part of education programs within and outside the Delta region at all levels of education. Graduate students at universities, colleges, and community colleges throughout the Delta could be challenged through a design competition to design educational curriculum for the Internet. Other students, including adult learners, could develop oral histories and accompanying graphics to help preserve the heritage of older Delta residents.

Students from several schools could combine their skills and creative ideas to develop criteria for creating Delta heritage programs to ensure that they are 'user friendly' and accessible for all school districts and students in the Delta.

Students in business, marketing, and tourism related studies could be called upon to develop ways to market and distribute the information of the network.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

The natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Delta remain the stimulus for creating a Delta Heritage Information Network. The network would present, in graphic and creative ways, strategies for local organizations, historic sites, museums, natural resource sites, and private landowners to protect and preserve the region's resources. Information would be presented that would tell those interested where they could obtain technical assistance, grants, or other important information.

The network would present various topics and would explore them in-depth on resource stewardship on a monthly basis. The network would also present a 'chat room' where questions and issues could be addressed online.

The flexibility of the Internet and online opportunities could help sites and organizations improve their resource protection and preservation efforts.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

This alternative proposes development of a Delta Heritage Information Network using Internet and other computer technologies. No new development is recommended as part of this alternative.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The Delta Heritage Information Network would be managed through a Delta Heritage Information Center. The director of the center would be responsible for organizing, staffing, and implementing the network. Staff would include at least one education/interpretive specialist experienced in developing Internet sites, computer programs and graphic designs. The center would work closely with the region's universities and colleges to identify and use subject matter experts in Delta history, natural resources, folkways, and heritage preservation.

The center could contract for development of multimedia products such as CD-ROM, videos, brochures, and/or posters and tapes. The center could develop cooperative agreements with local and regional organizations interested in furthering educational and interpretive programs through technology and would work closely with education departments to ensure the widest possible access to Delta heritage programs.

Functions

The Delta Heritage Information Center would have a formalized management structure to define roles and responsibilities and coordinate efforts. The center would have a director and its own staff skilled in computer technologies and marketing.

The center would be responsible for (1) organizing and implementing a Delta Heritage Information Network; (2) serving as a clearing house of information on Delta heritage tourism initiatives and projects; (3) developing a Delta Heritage Internet site and appropriate Delta heritage computer educational and interpretive programs; (4) developing standards and criteria

for heritage related information programs within the Delta; (5) coordinating with education departments, colleges, and universities to ensure the widest distribution of information (6) coordinating heritage tourism information nationally and internationally with other concerned agencies and organizations in the Delta; and (7) preparing a 10-year strategic plan that would also identify long-term funding strategies to support the information network.

Funding

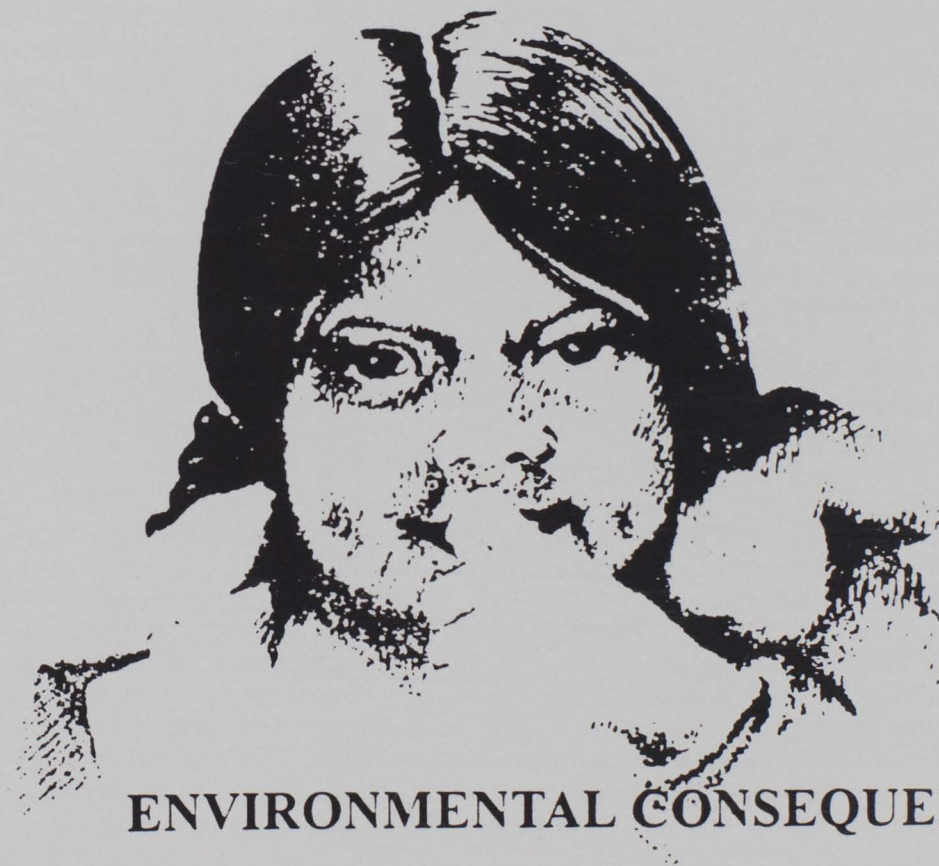
The Delta Heritage Information Center would receive federal funding for organization and implementation of the Delta Heritage Information Network for five years after authorization and appropriation of funds from Congress. The center would develop a 10-year strategic plan for continuing the network's ongoing projects and programs in the private sector, perhaps through a private/nonprofit organization.

Alternative D: Sharing Delta Heritage in the 21st Century

Federal funds would be used for initial computer purchase and set-up, staffing, graphic/Internet contractors, and administrative requirements.

Estimated Costs

It is estimated that the federal cost for startup, equipment purchase, staffing, and contacting services would be approximately \$165,000 for the first year. Maintenance of the network for five years would be approximately \$380,000 for a total for setup and maintenance for 5 years of \$545,000. The cost of contracting for multimedia products (CD-ROM, videos, posters, brochures, etc.) produced over five years would be approximately \$820,000. The total federal cost to implement this alternative would be \$1,365,000.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

NPS Special Directive 92-11 stipulates that special resource studies, such as the *Lower Mississippi Delta Region, Draft Heritage Study*, should evaluate impacts associated with each alternative in the form of an environmental assessment. Due to the broad, conceptual nature of the alternatives presented, the environmental assessment presents a broad overview of potential impacts relating to important elements of each alternative. It is expected, however, that future management plans would be generated to implement any one of the alternatives outlined in the document. Future planning efforts would evaluate specific environmental impacts of the actions proposed in more depth, and more detailed mitigative measures would be developed and analyzed for public comment.

The following impact topics were selected both to provide a focus for environmental discussions and as a basis of comparison for the most relevant topics. Their inclusion is a result of federal laws, regulations, and directives; the National Park Service's *National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Guideline* (1982), *Management Policies* (1988), and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1994); and issues and concerns expressed during public meetings and through the responses received from project mailings. The assessment of impacts was based upon the best available information.

IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE A

VISITOR EXPERIENCE/ INTERPRETATION/EDUCATION

A wide variety of interrelated visitor information and activities would be available to interpret each of the lower Delta region's basic story elements, and from existing tourist information centers visitors would be directed to the resources that best illustrate the region's many stories. Dispersing visitors to the most appropriate resources would increase the effectiveness of any interpretive program, enhancing a visitor's understanding and appreciation of the region. By coordinating the dissemination of information and materials, the Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Partnership would ensure that visitors receive an orientation to the entire lower Mississippi Delta and the associated story elements, regardless of which tourist information center they visit. However, a major commitment of time would be required to visit even a majority of the sites related to most story elements, the interpretive program at many sites would be primarily limited to self-guided activities, and the quality of visitor experiences could vary considerably from site to site. In addition, the failure to sufficiently develop the interrelatedness of the lower Delta region's many stories and resources could make it difficult for visitors to understand the complex cultural and natural evolution of the region.

The interrelated interpretation and educational opportunities available would increase and enhance the variety and quality of experiences available to both visitors and residents throughout the region. Enhancing the resident's awareness of their cultural and natural heritages would increase their pride in and appreciation of the region's significant cultural, natural, and scenic resources. Increased appreciation for these resources could contribute to their long-term preservation.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Cultural Resources

The responsibility for preserving many of the Delta region's cultural resources would primarily lie with interested state and local governments, organizations, and citizens. Preservation efforts could continue to be fragmented and uncoordinated, due to limited technical assistance and inadequate funding; however, the numerous cultural resource studies proposed, if implemented, would provide the information necessary to better manage and protect the resources and to properly evaluate impacts of proposed actions in future environmental analyses. All cultural resource studies would be conducted in association with the appropriate state historic preservation offices and other interested state, local, and private agencies and organizations, and in cooperation with appropriate landowners and residents.

Another potential benefit of the proposed cultural resource studies includes continuing ongoing consultations with Native American Indians and other ethnographic groups, which could identify strategies for preserving and safeguarding cultural significant sites and resources. Efforts could be undertaken to identify and document oral traditions, life-ways, genealogies, and the complex inter-racial and intercultural relationships of the region's peoples, which are of ongoing significance to contemporary racial and ethnic groups throughout the United States.

Additional benefits could also accrue to those cultural resources that currently have no preservation efforts underway. The burgeoning information available regarding the lower Delta region's varied cultural resources could result not only in increased visitation but also increased public awareness and appreciation of the resources, resulting in the encouragement of preservation efforts and possibly additional revenue for resource preservation. Higher levels of visitation, though, could eventually result

in increased incidences of vandalism, more wear and tear on historic structures, or the overuse of adjacent grounds and landscapes, which could necessitate increased management of the visitor experience. The potential risk, however, is far outweighed by the potential benefits of preserving neglected and deteriorating resources.

Natural Resources

Under this alternative, new construction would be limited primarily to the installation of interpretive and informational signs, which would have minimal incremental impacts upon natural resources. Signs would probably be erected within existing rights-of-ways or previously disturbed areas.

It is unknown how many resource sites associated with the lower Delta region have the capacity to accommodate increased visitation without incurring resource degradation. For example, increased visitor use could result in both the compaction of nearby soils and destruction of adjacent vegetation. However, any adverse resource impacts to soils, vegetation, wildlife, and water and air quality would be minimal due to the relatively limited extent of land potentially affected and because many sites lie within existing disturbed areas.

With the exception of potentially partnering with public agencies or private landowners, there would be no additional measures to help protect or restore natural or scenic resources on either private or public land.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of this alternative would not result in the development of new facilities.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Partnership, a broad-based coalition of state representatives and local and private tourism organizations, would work together as one coordinated group to initiate grassroots support for heritage tourism and resource preservation throughout the lower Delta region. Such constituency and consensus-building, if successful, would diminish the prospects of fragmenting or dissolving the partnership. It would also help ensure the long-term momentum of any proposed initiatives. The partnership would also allow for the more effective use of existing federal programs, by providing a focus for funneling money and energy that otherwise might be dispersed in different, and perhaps contradictory, directions throughout the region.

Because the partnership and its initiatives would be both funded and driven by a combination of public and private entities, all participants would need to be committed to seeing the partnership succeed and not driven for purposes of self-gain. The requirement of nonfederal matching funds would help ensure the backing of all participants. The estimated costs of implementing alternative A would be \$500,000 per year for 10 years, or a total of \$5 million.

IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE B

VISITOR EXPERIENCE/ INTERPRETATION/EDUCATION

The impacts on visitor experience, interpretation, and education would be similar to those described in alternative A. However, the entity coordinating the dissemination of information and materials related to heritage tourism would be the much broader-based Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Commission, rather than the Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Partnership. The broader based commission and the increased funding that would be available for commission activities and initiatives could provide for a more comprehensive visitor experience/ interpretation/education, than under alternative A.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

The impacts to both cultural and natural resources would be similar to those described in alternative A. However, the efforts of the broader-based commission and the increased funding should make resource preservation more focused, as well as provide more opportunities for resource preservation.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of this alternative would not result in the development of new facilities.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Commission would represent a broader range

and association of public and private interests and resources than the partnership described in alternative A, would provide a formalized framework for bringing together existing public and private initiatives and creating new ones as needed, and would be focused on both heritage tourism and the preservation of resources.

The commission would provide greater potential for public-private ventures and allow for the more effective use of existing federal programs, by providing a focus for funneling money and energy that otherwise might be dispersed in different, and perhaps contradictory, directions throughout the region. Like the partnership described in alternative A, the commission would also initiate grassroots support for heritage tourism and resource preservation throughout the lower Delta region. Such constituency and consensus-building would help ensure the long-term momentum of any proposed initiatives.

Through the proposed comprehensive management plan, the commission would be an advocate for the preservation of both cultural and natural resources; would facilitate the support and participation of all levels of government, businesses, organizations and institutions, and private citizens; would establish mechanisms to provide the necessary capital needed to implement heritage tourism initiatives; and would conduct all future planning and design efforts.

The estimated costs of implementing alternative B would be \$1.5 million per year for ten years, or a total of \$15 million.

IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE C

VISITOR EXPERIENCE/ INTERPRETATION/EDUCATION

This alternative would provide visitors with the most comprehensive interpretation of the lower Mississippi Delta region's history. The seven cultural heritage centers would present visitors a clear and unified interpretation of the region's varied stories and resources, from prehistory to the present, and would provide visitors the opportunity to understand and appreciate interrelationships between the region's history and its resources, in a way unparalleled in the other alternatives. In addition, the information and orientation services at the cultural heritage centers would also help visitors know where and how to experience the various story elements of the lower Mississippi Delta region, for example by providing the opportunity to compare resources within different communities. The interrelated interpretation and educational opportunities provided would both increase and enhance the variety and quality of experiences available to visitors throughout the region.

Local residents would be able to take advantage of interpretive and educational programs offered at the heritage centers. There would be increased opportunities for community outreach programs involving the lower Delta region's cultural, natural, and scenic resources. Increased appreciation for these resources could help ensure their long-term preservation.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Cultural Resources

The seven proposed heritage centers would be located in adaptively rehabilitated historic structures, if possible. Though the overall impact of adaptive reuse would be the continued preservation of the structures, the use of any historic structure could result in the loss of historic fabric that is too deteriorated to be rescued and that must be replaced to preserve the structure or to allow the

structure to serve a public function. Materials that were removed, however, would be evaluated to determine their value for either museum collections or for their comparative use in future preservation work. In addition, a focused program of research and maintenance would not only continue to preserve these historic properties but also would contribute to and help perpetuate the historic character of surrounding landscapes. Should circumstances dictate that any or all of the heritage centers occupy new buildings, however, the heritage centers, and their associated parking areas, waysides, and access roads, would be appropriately sited and designed to minimize impacts to cultural resources.

The responsibility for preserving many of the Delta region's cultural resources would primarily lie with the newly created Lower Mississippi Delta Heritage Commission and local governments, organizations, and citizens. Preservation efforts could continue to be fragmented and uncoordinated, due to limited technical assistance and inadequate funding; however, the numerous cultural resource studies proposed, if implemented, would provide the information necessary to better manage and protect the resources and to properly evaluate impacts of proposed actions in future environmental analyses. All cultural resource studies would be conducted in association with the appropriate state historic preservation offices and other interested state, local, and private agencies and organizations, and in cooperation with appropriate landowners and residents.

Another potential benefit of the proposed cultural resource studies includes continuing ongoing consultations with Native American Indians and other ethnographic groups, which could identify strategies for preserving and safeguarding cultural significant sites and resources. Efforts could be undertaken to identify and document oral traditions, life-ways, genealogies, and the complex interracial and intercultural relationships of the region's peoples, which are of ongoing signifi-

cance to contemporary racial and ethnic groups throughout the United States.

Additional benefits could also accrue to those cultural resources that currently have no preservation efforts underway. The burgeoning information available regarding the lower Delta region's varied cultural resources could result not only in increased visitation but also increased public awareness and appreciation of the resources, resulting in the encouragement of preservation efforts and possibly additional revenue for resource preservation. Higher levels of visitation, though, could result in increased incidences of vandalism, more wear and tear on historic structures, or the overuse of adjacent grounds and landscapes, which could necessitate increased management of the visitor experience. The potential risk, however, is far outweighed by the potential benefits of preserving neglected and deteriorating resources.

Natural Resources

The seven proposed heritage centers would be located in existing structures, if possible. In most situations, the rehabilitation of historic structures would primarily affect disturbed vegetation types and habitats. Should circumstances dictate that the any or all of the heritage centers occupy new buildings, however, the heritage centers, and their associated parking areas, waysides, access roads, and signs would be appropriately sited and designed to minimize impacts to natural resources. If possible, for example, the heritage centers would be erected on previously disturbed lands, so as not to adversely impact biological diversity, wetlands, or floodplains. Should construction occur in the vicinity of streams and rivers, all activities would be conducted in strict compliance with state and federal regulations and standards, which would minimize both the sediment loads and vehicle related pollutants introduced into waterways. In addition, both the development of management plans and careful operation of the facilities would ensure that visitation is adequately managed without degradation of nearby natural resources.

A temporary degradation of air quality from increased vehicle emissions and an increase in noise would occur during construction, as a result of activities to either rehabilitate existing buildings or build new facilities and develop or improve parking and roads. Construction activities and increased vehicle traffic on unpaved roads could also temporarily increase airborne dust and slightly reduce visibility. Over the long term, pollutant concentrations from vehicle emissions might escalate in communities because of increased visitation.

Beneficial impacts could accrue from the implementation of applicable sustainable design practices, such as the proper disposal of onsite hazardous materials and the use of nonhazardous materials in facility design and construction. Such practices would not only provide for visitor and employee safety but could potentially lead to the removal of contaminants in soils, the improvement of local surface and groundwater quality, and the improvement of conditions for vegetation and wildlife.

It is unknown how many resource sites associated with the lower Delta region have the capacity to accommodate increased visitation without incurring resource degradation. For example, nearby soils could be compacted and adjacent vegetation destroyed by increased visitor use. However, any adverse resource impacts to soils, vegetation, wildlife, and water and air quality would be minimal due to the relatively limited extent of land potentially affected and because many sites lie within existing disturbed areas.

Additional programs or measures to help protect or restore natural and scenic resources on either private or public land could be developed in conjunction with the cultural heritage centers. In addition, the beneficial impacts of implementing this alternative would include some level of protection for those natural resources that are associated with cultural resources proposed for preservation.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

The seven cultural heritage centers would contribute to their surrounding communities both as an employer and as a consumer of goods and services. A staff would be required to both operate and maintain the facilities. Construction and/or rehabilitation of existing buildings and associated site improvements would require a contractor with a large staff and crew. During construction, additional food service, housing, and supplies would be necessary if the contractor is not from the local area. If a local contractor is used, little new economic benefit would accrue beyond the continued employment of existing workers during the construction period.

Increased visitation to the cultural heritage centers could create additional automobile traffic on rural and urban roads and highways. Urban congestion, remoteness, or the reliance on narrow, two-lane roads could make some centers difficult to access. Ultimately, there could be a need to increase the capacity of some roads, particularly in rural areas, to allow safe and efficient access to the cultural heritage centers. Additional demands for municipal services, such as road and street maintenance and law enforcement, could also occur in some communities. If transpiration and other infrastructure improvements are needed, however, local and state tax revenues from increased tourism could offset a portion of the costs.

Increased tourism could generate increased income for local businesses and could create a need for more overnight accommodations, restaurants, and other commercial establishments in the communities surrounding the cultural heritage centers, particularly if the centers are located in rural areas. Sensitive planning, however, would ensure that the siting of these additional facilities does not degrade the cultural, natural, or recreational resources that are integral to the character of the lower Mississippi Delta region.

Residents in the vicinity of the cultural heritage centers might experience some disruption to their daily lifestyles from the introduction of more visitors to the area. In

addition to increased traffic congestion, effects could include the general invasion of privacy, increased noise, and potential trespass by visitors. Such intrusions would likely be more noticeable if any of the centers were located in rural areas, where noise and human activity would be typically less. However, site planning and design that is sensitive to local lifestyle and property owner issues would reduce the potential for major impacts to residents.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The formalized management structure of the Delta Heritage Center Task Force would tightly define each participant's responsibilities, making both the organization of diverse groups of individuals and organizations and the coordination of projects and initiatives for such a large and complex area more efficient. At the same time, the potential for jurisdictional disputes would be minimized. In addition, the task force, a new federal commission, could promote new federal expenditures at a time when many established federal programs are underfunded. The task force should also prove successful in driving economic revitalization, spurring private investment, and generating community pride.

Like the partnership and commission described in alternatives A and B, respectively, the task force would initiate grassroots support for heritage tourism and resource preservation throughout the lower Delta region. Such constituency and consensus-building would help ensure the long-term momentum of any proposed initiatives. The task force would also allow for the more effective use of existing federal programs by providing a focus for funneling money and energy that otherwise might be dispersed in different, and perhaps contradictory, directions throughout the region.

Federal funding to be made available for constructing each heritage center would be \$3 million (\$21 million total). The staffing and maintenance costs would be borne by each state.

IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE D

VISITOR EXPERIENCE/ INTERPRETATION/EDUCATION

The Delta Heritage Information Network would focus attention both regionally and nationally on the significance and magnitude of the lower Mississippi Delta region's diverse resources and the interrelationships between the region's history and its resources, from prehistory to the present. The information network could provoke interest in and stimulate visitation to the lower Mississippi Delta region, but many may be content with only the information gleaned from the various media. By not experiencing the region's resources firsthand, the "virtual" visitor would, for example, miss the pleasure of coming upon historic resources that poignantly reveal, by engaging all of our senses, the events of the past and provide a glimpse into the lives and aspirations of those who lived before us.

Enhancing the residents' awareness of their cultural and natural heritages would increase their pride in and appreciation of the region's significant cultural, natural, and scenic resources. Increased appreciation for these resources could contribute to their long-term preservation.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Cultural and Natural Resources

The responsibility for preserving the lower Delta region's cultural and natural resources would lie with local governments, organizations, and citizens. There would be no measures initiated as a result of the implementation of this alternative to help protect or restore natural or scenic resources on either private or public land. Preservation efforts would continue to be fragmented and uncoordinated, due to limited technical assistance and inadequate funding. However, the burgeoning information about the region's varied cultural and natural resources

that would be available through the Delta Heritage Network could result not only in increased visitation but also increased public awareness and appreciation of the resources, resulting in the encouragement of preservation efforts and possibly additional revenue for resource preservation. As is the case with the other alternatives, higher levels of visitation could eventually contribute to the degradation of cultural and natural resources, which would necessitate increased management of the visitor experience. The potential risk, however, is far outweighed by the potential benefits of preserving neglected and deteriorating resources.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of this alternative would not result in the development of new facilities.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Unlike the management approaches described in the previous alternatives, there would be neither a formalized framework for bringing together existing public and private initiatives nor a mechanism for creating new ones as needed. The existing Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center, which would manage the Delta Heritage Information Network, would lack both the resources and funding to be more than an advocate for regional heritage tourism and resource preservation. Such advocacy, however, could ignite grassroots support for heritage tourism and resource preservation throughout the lower Delta region, providing momentum for the successful development and initiation of the proposed 10-year strategic plan, which would both address attracting the support and participation of all levels of government, businesses, organizations and institutions, and private citizens and the means of acquiring the necessary capital to implement proposed heritage tourism initiatives.



**APPENDIXES /
STUDY PARTICIPANTS**

APPENDIX A: LEGISLATION

PUBLIC LAW 103-433—OCT. 31, 1994

108 STAT. 4471

Public Law 103-433
103d Congress

An Act

To designate certain lands in the California Desert as wilderness, to establish the Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, to establish the Mojave National Preserve, and for other purposes.

Oct. 31, 1994
[S. 21]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Conservation.

16 USC 1a-5
note

**TITLE XI—LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA
REGION INITIATIVES**

SEC. 1101. FINDINGS.

(a) The Congress finds that—

(1) in 1988, Congress enacted Public Law 100-460, establishing the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, to assess the needs, problems, and opportunities of people living in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region that includes 219 counties and parishes within the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee;

(2) the Commission conducted a thorough investigation to assess these needs, problems, and opportunities, and held several public hearings throughout the Delta Region;

(3) on the basis of these investigations, the Commission issued the Delta Initiatives Report, which included recommendations on natural resource protection, historic preservation, and the enhancement of educational and other opportunities for Delta residents;

(4) the Delta Initiatives Report recommended—

(A) designating the Great River Road as a scenic byway, and designating other hiking and motorized trails throughout the Delta Region;

(B) that the Federal Government identify sites and structures of historic and prehistoric importance throughout the Delta Region;

(C) the further study of potential new units of the National Park System within the Delta Region; and

(D) that Federal agencies target more monies in selected areas to institutions of higher education in the Delta Region, especially Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

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[108 STAT. 4513]

SEC. 1102. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this title, the term—

(1) "Commission" means the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission established pursuant to Public Law 100-460;

(2) "Delta Initiatives Report" means the May 14, 1990 Final Report of the Commission entitled "The Delta Initiatives: Realizing the Dream . . . Fulfilling the Potential";

(3) "Delta Region" means the Lower Mississippi Delta Region including the 219 counties and parishes within the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, as defined in the Delta Initiatives Report, except that, for any State for which the Delta Region as defined in such report comprises more than half of the geographic area of such State, the entire State shall be considered part of the Delta Region for purposes of this title;

(4) "Department" means the United States Department of the Interior, unless otherwise specifically stated;

(5) "Historically Black College or University" means a college or university that would be considered a "part B institution" by section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2));

(6) "minority college or university" means a Historically Black College or University that would be considered a "part B institution" by section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)) or a "minority institution" as that term is defined in section 1046 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1135d-5(3));

(7) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, unless otherwise specifically stated.

SEC. 1103. LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION HERITAGE STUDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the States of the Delta Region, the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center, and other appropriate Delta Region institutions, is directed to prepare and transmit to the Congress within three years after the date of the enactment of this title, a study of significant natural, recreational, historical or prehistorical, and cultural lands, waters, sites, and structures located within the Delta Region. This study shall take into consideration the research and inventory of resources conducted by the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Study Commission.

(b) **TRANSPORTATION ROUTES.**—(1) The study shall include recommendations on appropriate designation and interpretation of historically significant roads, trails, byways, waterways, or other routes within the Delta Region.

(2) In order to provide for public appreciation, education, understanding, interpretation, and enjoyment of the significant sites identified pursuant to subsection (a), which are accessible by public roads, the Secretary shall recommend in the study vehicular tour routes along existing public roads linking such sites within the Delta Region.

(3) Such recommendations shall include an analysis of designating the Great River Road (as depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Delta Transportation Network" on pages 102-103 of the Delta Initiatives Report) and other sections of the Great River Road between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana and an analysis of des-

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ignating that portion of the Old Antonio Road and the Louisiana Natchez Trace which extends generally along Highway 84 from Vidalia, Louisiana, to Clarence, Louisiana, and Louisiana Highway 6 from Clarence, Louisiana, to the Toledo Bend Reservoir, Louisiana, as a National Scenic Byway, or as a component of the National Trails System, or such other designation as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(4) The Secretary shall also recommend in the study an appropriate route along existing public roads to commemorate the importance of timber production and trade to the economic development of the Delta Region in the early twentieth century, and to highlight the continuing importance of timber production and trade to the economic life of the Delta Region. Recommendations shall include an analysis of designating that portion of US 165 which extends from Alexandria, Louisiana, to Monroe, Louisiana, as a National Scenic Byway, or as a component of the National Trails System, or such other designation as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(5) The study shall also include a comprehensive recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan for the routes described in the above paragraphs, including bicycle and hiking paths, and make specific recommendations for the acquisition and construction or related interpretive and visitor information facilities at selected sites along such routes.

(6) The Secretary is authorized to make grants to States for work necessary to stabilize, maintain, and widen public roads to allow for adequate access to the nationally significant sites and structures identified by the study, to allow for proper use of the vehicular tour route, trails, byways, including the routes defined in paragraphs (3) and (4) or other public roads within the Delta Region and to implement the comprehensive recreation, interpretive, and visitor use plan required in paragraph (5).

(c) LISTING.—On the basis of the study, and in consultation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Secretary shall inventory significant structures and sites in the Delta Region. The Secretary shall further recommend and encourage cooperative preservation and economic development efforts such as the establishment of preservation districts linking groups of contiguous counties or parishes, especially those that lie along the aforementioned designated routes. The Secretary shall prepare a list of the sites and structures for possible inclusion by the National Park Service as National Historic Landmarks or such other designation as the Secretary deems appropriate.

SEC. 1104. DELTA REGION HERITAGE CORRIDORS AND HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) in 1990, the Congress authorized the Institute of Museum Services to prepare a report assessing the needs of small, emerging, minority, and rural museums in order to identify the resources such museums needed to meet their educational mission, to identify the areas of museum operation in which the needs were greatest, and to make recommendations on how these needs could best be met;

(2) the Institute of Museum Services undertook a comprehensive eighteen month study of such needs with the assistance of two advisory groups, surveyed 524 museums from throughout the Nation, held discussion groups in which rep-

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representatives of 25 museum groups participated, and conducted case studies of 12 museum facilities around the Nation;

(3) on the basis of this assessment, the Institute of Museum Services issued a report in September, 1992, entitled, "National Needs Assessment of Small, Emerging, Minority and Rural Museums in the United States" (hereinafter "National Needs Assessment") which found that small, emerging, minority, and rural museums provide valuable educational and cultural resources for their communities and contain a reservoir of the Nation's material, cultural and historical heritage, but due to inadequate resources are unable to meet their full potential or the demands of the surrounding communities;

(4) the needs of these institutions are not being met through existing Federal programs;

(5) fewer than half of the participants in the survey had applied for Federal assistance in the past two years and that many small, emerging, minority and rural museums believe existing Federal programs do not meet their needs;

(6) based on the National Needs Assessment, that funding agencies should increase support available to small, emerging, minority, and rural museums and make specific recommendations for increasing technical assistance in order to identify such institutions and provide assistance to facilitate their participation in Federal programs;

(7) the Delta Initiatives Report made specific recommendations for the creation and development of centers for the preservation of the cultural, historical, and literary heritage of the Delta Region, including recommendations for the establishment of a Delta Region Native American Heritage and Cultural Center and a Delta Region African American Heritage and Cultural Center with additional satellite centers or museums linked throughout the Delta Region;

(8) the Delta Initiatives Report stated that new ways of coordinating, preserving, and promoting the Delta Region's literature, art, and music should be established including the creation of a network to promote the Delta Region's literary, artistic, and musical heritage; and

(9) wholesale destruction and attrition of archeological sites and structures has eliminated a significant portion of Native American heritage as well as the interpretive potential of the Delta Region's parks and museums. Furthermore, site and structure destruction is so severe that an ambitious program of site and structure acquisition in the Delta Region is necessary.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the States of the Delta Region, the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Director of the Smithsonian Institution, the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and appropriate African American, Native American and other relevant institutions or organizations in the Delta Region, is further directed to prepare and transmit to the Congress a plan outlining specific recommendations, including recommendations for necessary funding, for the establishment of a Delta Region Native American Heritage Corridor and Heritage and Cultural Center and a Delta Region African American Heritage Corridor and

Heritage and Cultural Center with a network of satellite or cooperative units.

(c) DELTA REGION NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE CORRIDOR AND CULTURAL CENTER.—(1) The plan referred to in subsection (b) of this section shall include recommendations for establishing a network of parks, museums, and other centers to interpret Native American culture and heritage in the Delta Region, including a ten year development strategy for such a network.

(2) Such plan shall include specific proposals for the development of a Native American Heritage Corridor and Heritage and Cultural Center in the Delta Region, along with recommendations for the appropriate Federal role in such a center including matching grants, technical and interpretive assistance.

(3) Such plan shall be conducted in consultation with tribal leaders in the Delta Region.

(4) Such plan shall also include specific proposals for educational and training assistance for Delta Region Native Americans to carry out the recommendations provided in the study.

(d) DELTA REGION AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CORRIDOR AND HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER.—(1) The plan referred to in subsection (b) of this section shall include recommendations for establishing a heritage corridor or trail system, consisting of one or two major north-south routes and several east-west-spur loops to preserve, interpret and commemorate the African American heritage and culture in the Delta Region during all significant historical periods.

(2) Such plan shall make specific recommendations for representing all forms of expressive culture including the musical, folklore, literary, artistic, scientific, historical, educational, and political contributions and accomplishments of African Americans in the Delta Region.

(3) Such plan shall make specific recommendations for implementing the findings of the Delta Initiatives Report with respect to establishing an African American Heritage Corridor and Heritage and Cultural Center and related satellite museums in the Delta Region, together with specific funding levels necessary to carry out these recommendations and shall also include recommendations for improving access of small, emerging, minority or rural museums to technical and financial assistance.

(4) Such plan shall be conducted in consultation with institutions of higher education in the Delta Region with expertise in African American studies, Southern studies, archeology, anthropology, history and other relevant fields.

(5) Such plan shall make specific recommendations for improving educational programs offered by existing cultural facilities and museums as well as establishing new outreach programs for elementary, middle and secondary schools, including summer programs for youth in the Delta Region.

(e) GRANTS.—(1) In furtherance of the purposes of this section, the Secretary is authorized to make planning grants to State Humanities Councils in the Delta Region to assist small, emerging, minority and rural museums selected on a financial needs basis in the development of a comprehensive long term plan for these institutions. The Secretary is also authorized to make implementation grants to State Humanities Councils in the Delta Region who, in consultations with State Museum Associations, shall make grants to small, emerging, minority or rural museums for the purpose

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of carrying out an approved plan for training personnel, improving exhibits or other steps necessary to assure the integrity of collections in their facilities, for educational outreach programs, or for other activities the Secretary deems appropriate including the promotion of tourism in the region. Such institutions shall be selected competitively and on the basis of demonstrated financial need. The Secretary is also authorized to make grants to State Humanities Councils to update, simplify and coordinate the respective State Works Progress Administration guides and to develop a single comprehensive guide for the Delta Region.

(2) The Secretary is authorized to provide grants and other appropriate technical assistance to State Humanities Councils, State museum Associations, and State Arts Councils in the Delta Region for the purpose of assessing the needs of such institutions. Such grants may be used by these institutions to undertake such an assessment and to provide other technical, administrative and planning assistance to small, emerging, minority or rural institutions seeking to preserve the Delta Region's literary, artistic, and musical heritage.

(f) MUSIC HERITAGE PROGRAM.—(1) The plan referred to in subsection (b) of this section shall include recommendations for establishing a Music Heritage Program, with specific emphasis on the Mississippi Delta Blues. The plan shall include specific recommendations for developing a network of heritage sites, structures, small museums, and festivals in the Delta Region.

(2) The plan shall include an economic strategy for the promotion of the Delta Region's music, through the participation of musicians, festival developers, museum operators, universities, economic development districts, and other relevant individuals and organizations.

(g) COMPLETION DATE.—The plan authorized in this section shall be completed not later than three years after the date funds are made available for such plan.

SEC. 1105. HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC STRUCTURES AND SITES SURVEY. Minorities

(a) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary is authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to undertake a comprehensive survey of historic and prehistoric structures and sites located on their campuses, including recommendations as to the inclusion of appropriate structures and sites on the National Register of Historic Places, designation as National Historic Landmarks, or other appropriate designation as determined by the Secretary. The Secretary shall also make specific proposals and recommendations, together with estimates of necessary funding levels, for a comprehensive plan to be carried out by the Department to assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the preservation and interpretation of such sites and structures.

(b) GRANTS.—In furtherance of the purposes of this section, the Secretary is authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for stabilization, preservation and interpretation of such sites and structures.

SEC. 1106. DELTA ANTIQUITIES SURVEY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary is directed to prepare and transmit to the Congress, in cooperation with the States of the Delta Region, State Archaeological Surveys and Regional

Archeological Centers, a study of the feasibility of establishing a Delta Antiquities Trail or Delta Antiquities Heritage Corridor in the Delta Region.

(2) Such study shall, to the extent practicable, use nonintrusive methods of identifying, surveying, inventorying, and stabilizing ancient archeological sites and structures.

(3) In undertaking this study, the Secretary is directed to enter into cooperative agreements with the States of the Delta Region, the State Archeological Surveys, and Regional Archeological Centers located in Delta Region institutions of higher education for on-site activities including surveys, inventories, and stabilization and other activities which the Secretary deems appropriate.

(4) In addition to the over 100 known ancient archeological sites located in the Delta Region including Watson's Brake, Frenchman's Bend, Hedgepeth, Monte Sano, Banana Bayou, Hornsby, Parkin, Toltec, Menard-Hodges, Eaker, Blytheville Mound, Nodena, Taylor Mounds, DeSoto Mound and others, such study shall also employ every practical means possible, including assistance from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture, the Army Corps of Engineers of the Department of Defense, and other appropriate Federal agencies, to locate and confirm the existence of a site known as Balbansha in southern Louisiana and a site known as Autiamque in Arkansas. The heads of these Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Secretary as the Secretary requires on a non-reimbursable basis.

(b) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—In furtherance of the purposes of this section, the Secretary is authorized to provide technical assistance and grants to private landowners for necessary stabilization activities of identified sites and for preparing recommendations for designating such sites as National Landmarks or other appropriate designations as the Secretary, with the concurrence of the landowners, determines to be appropriate.

(c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the States, State Archeological Surveys, and Regional Archeological Centers of the Delta Region to develop a ten-year plan for the stabilization, preservation and interpretation of those sites and structures as may be identified by the Secretary.

SEC. 1107. HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROGRAM.

(a) **PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive program for the research, interpretation, and preservation of significant historic and archeological resources in the Delta Region.

(b) **ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM.**—The program shall include, but not be limited to—

(1) identification of research projects related to historic and archeological resources in the Delta Region and a proposal for the regular publication of related research materials and publications;

(2) the development of a survey program to investigate, inventory and further evaluate known historic and archeological sites and structures and identify those sites and structures that require additional study;

(3) identification of a core system of interpretive sites and structures that would provide a comprehensive overview of historic and archeological resources of the Delta Region;

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(4) preparation of educational materials to interpret the historical and archeological resources of the Delta Region;

(5) preparation of surveys and archeological and historical investigations of sites, structures, and artifacts relating to the Delta Region, including the preparation of reports, maps, and other related activities.

(c) GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary is authorized to award grants to qualified tribal, governmental and non-governmental entities and individuals to assist the Secretary in carrying out those elements of the program which the Secretary deems appropriate.

(2) The Secretary is further authorized to award grants and provide other types of technical and financial assistance to such entities and individuals to conserve and protect historic and archeological sites and structures in the Delta Region identified in the program prepared pursuant to this section.

(d) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The Secretary shall establish a national demonstration project for the conservation and curation of the archeological records and collections of Federal and State management agencies in the Delta Region.

SEC. 1106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title.

APPENDIX B: PARALLEL EFFORTS IN THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA

While the NPS has been conducting the Lower Mississippi Delta Region Heritage Study, many other parallel efforts have been underway in the region. State historic preservation offices, state parks departments, local citizens' groups, university groups, and the Lower Mississippi Development Center have undertaken, often in partnership with other agencies and organizations, various historic preservation projects or tourism development efforts. The National Park Service has also undertaken a parallel effort of education and preservation projects to foster awareness and to assist preservation efforts in the Delta.

Following is a list of ongoing, completed, and/or projects for the Lower Mississippi Delta region related to heritage tourism opportunities and challenges:

Mississippi River Trail (Tennessee section)

The dream of creating a back roads bike trail along the Mississippi River is becoming a reality with the efforts of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center. 1996 saw the opening of a 177-mile "Tennessee route of the great paddlewheelers." Bikers can now travel along scenic back roads between Memphis and Reelfoot Lake. Future plans call for expanding the route all along the Mississippi.

Rangers and Amtrak: Interpreting Landscapes of the States

The Park Service, in partnership with Amtrak and the National Park Foundation, have been presenting interpretive programs on board Amtrak's *City of New Orleans* between New Orleans and Jackson, Mississippi. This summer will see the expansion of the program to include towns such as Greenwood, Mississippi; Memphis, Tennessee; Fulton, Kentucky; Carbondale, Illinois; and areas up to Chicago. Interpreters deal with topics such as music, the Civil Rights movement, Delta culture, the Civil War, national parks, natural resources, and other relevant topics.

Delta Heritage Trail (Phillips/Arkansas/Desha Counties, Arkansas)

The Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism has acquired from the Union Pacific Railroad, through the railbanking provisions of the National Trails System Act, 73.22 miles of abandoned railroad right-of-way. The Department will develop a multiuse trail along the corridor as funding becomes available. The corridor passes through some of the most remote and scenic areas remaining in East Arkansas and is in an area of the state that has been actively pursuing the full development of its tourism potential in recent years. It presents an opportunity for an extraordinary trail corridor providing recreation, tourism, and access to remote areas and protected lands for wildlife habitat and movement.

Mississippi Valley Heritage Center (Proposed - Blytheville, Arkansas)

This proposal is based on a report completed in 1995 on the "Feasibility of Creating an Archeological Heritage Center at Eaker Air Force Base, Blytheville, Arkansas." The proposal requests funds to implement the establishment of an archeological heritage center that uses the land and structures abandoned with the Department of Defense closing of Eaker Air Force Base. The archeological heritage center would serve the Delta as a regional archeological curation facility for the needs of state and federal agencies in the area and would interpret the early cultural history of the Central and Lower Mississippi River Valley.

Arkansas Delta PRIDE (Jonesboro, Arkansas)

The Department of Institutional Advancement at Arkansas State University has proposed a partnership of public and private organizations and individuals and local, county, state, regional, and federal agencies to identify, develop, and implement tourism initiatives for economic development throughout the Arkansas Delta. Focus of these efforts would be on environmental and

heritage tourism. "Rediscover the Ridge" focuses primarily on the eight counties along Crowley's Ridge. Efforts are going forward to designate Crowley's Ridge Parkway, to complete a corridor management study, and to explore feasibility of excursion rail service.

Historic Natchez Conference (Natchez, Mississippi)

This conference provided the opportunity for participants to share archival materials and information for research underway in the south.

Yazoo Valley Mound Driving Tour Proposal

This cooperative endeavor between the Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) and the University of Mississippi resulted in a proposal for an audiocassette/pamphlet driving tour of prehistoric and historic resources along national scenic highway MS 61.

Louisiana Mounds: Education Packet

The Park Service has prepared an education packet/folder that explains the significance and preservation values of the mounds. The packet contains NPS-contracted original artwork of the three mound sites. The archeological conservancy is in the process of acquiring these sites.

Mississippi Delta Mound Poster

This educational poster highlights ancient Indian architecture in the Delta. The posters were distributed to the seven state historic preservation offices of the Delta as well as some Native American groups for distribution to the public.

Internet Web Site: Mississippi Delta

This Web site provides educational and interpretive information on the natural and cultural resources of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region. The LMDR Web site is linked to the NPS Web site and the

national parks within the Delta Region. Information specific to the legislative initiative is also included.

"Southern Cultural Landscapes: Past, Present, and Future" Conference (Oxford, Mississippi)

This conference brought professionals in the fields of cultural and natural resources, heritage tourism, and education together with government representatives to address cultural landscape recognition, preservation, and advocacy. It provided a synthesis of the human cultures from Native American, pioneer, African-American, antebellum, Reconstruction, New South, and natural ecological processes that have individually and collectively shaped the land and given rise to the cultural landscape apparent today.

Southeast Archeological Association Symposium on Archeology in the Mississippi Delta (New Orleans, Louisiana)

The Park Service sponsored and chaired a half-day symposium at the Southeast Archeological Association Convention on archeology in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region.

Louisiana Archeology Week Poster

The Southeast Archeological Center prepared the poster depicting a mound site for Louisiana Archeology Week.

Mississippi Delta Historic Housekeeping Workshop

Seven one-day workshops were conducted in small towns throughout the Delta Region providing information to museum professionals and the general public in the basic principles of architectural and museum collection preservation. About two hundred people attended the LMDR-sponsored "Saving Historic Architecture and Antiques" workshops.

Mississippi Mound Driving Tour

The Southeast Archeological Center and the Mississippi state historic preservation office developed a driving tour of mound sites predominantly in Mississippi but also included portions of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana. A brochure is being prepared for distribution to tourism centers.

Preservation of Mississippi Mounds

There are ongoing efforts to protect Mississippi mound sites in perpetuity. While the primary sites are being protected by their owners, public and private, permanent preservation is needed. The Park Service is assisting the archeological conservancy in acquiring mound sites. The Mississippi State Parks Department is being consulted on its possible role in the managing of the sites.

"Raffman Mounds...Preservation for the Public" Concept Plan

This concept plan discusses ways the Raffman site could be managed if in public ownership. The Raffman Mounds site in Madison Parish, Louisiana, is a national treasure with the potential for significantly expanding knowledge of prehistoric cultures in the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

Ancient Earthworks of the Ouachita River Valley, Louisiana

As an offshoot of the research design developed by Southeast Archeological Center for the ancient Indian architecture study, a manuscript entitled "ancient Earthworks of the Ouachita Valley in Louisiana," by Dr. Jon L. Gibson, has been printed and distributed.

Mississippi Delta Traveling Trunks

A traveling trunk is a collection of hands-on educational tools for classroom use on a specific topic. The Lower Mississippi Delta Discovery Trunks consist of videos, brochures, games, and other three-dimensional objects drawn from NPS

sites in the Lower Mississippi Delta. The focus on the Delta experience through the exploration of people, places, and change.

Civil War on the Mississippi Heritage Corridor - Brochure

To enhance heritage tourism and economic development in the seven-state area, the Lower Mississippi Valley Civil War task force has developed a brochure that features Civil War sites that are open to public discussion of military operations in the Lower Mississippi Valley from 1861-1865. The brochure also contains a narrative on the social, cultural, and economic aspects of the war in the Lower Valley. In partnership with state tourism offices in the Delta, the research has been done and the brochure has been printed and is ready for distribution.

Lower Mississippi Delta Mound Study

This study identifies approximately 5,200 mounds at 3,130 sites. It provides an evaluation of site conditions/significance and makes recommendations for preservation options.

Interactive CD-ROM on Delta Archeology

Work on the interactive program on archeology in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region continues. This interpretive program is planned as the first of a series of programs on Mississippi Delta theme areas and are targeted for use in parks and state welcome centers.

St. Martinville, Louisiana Heritage Project

This project will develop authentic living history and other interpretive programs that re-create the Le Petit Paris time period. Written materials (resource surveys, analysis, methods, interpretive methods, clothing patterns, etc.) Will be generated and housed in the Acadian Memorial Library so that other communities in the region can also develop authentic programs. Living history programs will be ongoing and workshops will be held in which other communities can learn techniques and interpretation.

1998 Natchez History Conference

Every two years Natchez National Historical Park, in partnership with the University of California and the Historic Natchez Foundation, coordinates the Natchez History Conference. The purpose of the conference is to bring together scholars, history professors and archivists from as many universities as possible to share southern history. The ongoing research being conducted in Natchez on the city courthouse records will also be unveiled to the academic community for the first time.

Planning Grant for Alcorn University Environmental Education Center and Cultural Complex

Alcorn University is the oldest historically black land-grant college 5 miles from the Natchez Trace Parkway. The proposed education center would offer courses in environmental education and will seek to locate and catalog earthworks, historic cemeteries, and structures on the campus.

Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana Heritage Project

This project will help local communities inventory, interpret, and develop programs for the late Federal Period and for the 19th century rural Italians. This area of Louisiana contains the largest rural settlement of Italians in the U.S. The late Federal Period program will also include southern Mississippi. Workshops and interpretive training, etc., will include other communities in southeastern

Louisiana and Mississippi. Resource surveys, analysis, interpretation methods, and plans and materials relative to living history will be generated. Final materials will be distributed through the Louisiana Office of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism and will be housed in libraries throughout the state.

Historic Donaldsonville Museum

Located in the historic Lemann Store Building in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, the museum will preserve and present the heritage of Donaldsonville and the surrounding area. In addition the goal of the Ascension Heritage Association's museum will be to promote tourism and be an education institution to inform people of all generations of the history, architecture, and culture of this area.

Great River Road State Park

A coalition of Rosedale officials and interested citizens area exploring the possibility of designating the Great River Road State park at Rosedale, Mississippi, as the Great River Explorers National Historical Park. The group is working with their congressional representatives to further this initiative to commemorate the exploration of the Mississippi River by early European Spanish and French explorers.

APPENDIX C: RESOURCE DESCRIPTIONS
COMPREHENSIVE CONCEPT: STORIES OF THE DELTA

The following tables give descriptions of the resources referred to in the concepts presented earlier in this document. The tables include the number of the resource found on the corresponding concept map, the name of the resource, location, a brief description of the resource, and the relevant "Stories of the Delta" that the resource helps illustrate.

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
1	Ste. Genevieve	Missouri	River Town	The River and the Environment
2	Cairo	Illinois	River Town	The River and the Environment
3	Memphis	Tennessee	River Town	The River and the Environment
4	Hickman	Kentucky	River Town	The River and the Environment
5	Helena	Arkansas	River Town	The River and the Environment
6	Vicksburg	Mississippi	River Town	The River and the Environment
7	New Orleans	Louisiana	River Town	The River and the Environment
8	Reelfoot Lake	Tiptonville, Tennessee	Created by 1811-12 New Madrid earthquake events; encompasses cypress swamps, sawgrass jungles, and wetlands that are a haven for wildlife species	The River and the Environment - Geophysical transformation
9	Crowley's Ridge State Park	Paragould, Arkansas	Narrow ridge of forested hills that rises above the Delta of northeastern Arkansas, created by wind carried soil over the last 12 centuries	The River and the Environment - Geophysical transformation
10	Birds Point to New Madrid	Missouri	Missouri floodway	Manipulating the River for navigation and flood control

APPENDIXES / STUDY PARTICIPANTS

NO	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
12	Bonnet Carre Spillway upstream of New Orleans	Louisiana	Flood control	Manipulating the River for navigation and flood control
13	Waterways Experiment Station Visitor Center	Vicksburg, Mississippi	Principal research and testing laboratory of Corps of Engineers	Manipulating the River for navigation and flood control
14	Little Grand Canyon Area	Carbondale, Illinois	Diversity of ecosystems and seasonal haven for a variety of snakes that hibernate there	Natural resources
15	Henderson Sloughs	Uniontown, Kentucky	Large wetland and important habitat for waterfowl and wildlife	Natural resources
16	White River Sugarberry Natural Area, White River National Wildlife Refuge	Helena, Arkansas	Three bottomland hardwood forest types and diversity of wildlife	Natural resources
17	Louisiana Purchase State Park	Between Brinkley and Marvel - Arkansas	Backwater swamp; Starting point of 1815 land surveys after Louisiana Purchase in 1803	Natural Resources; Early settlement
18	Delta National Forest, Green Ash, Overcup Oak, and Sweetgum Research National Areas	Yazoo City, Mississippi	Rare remnants of virgin bottomland hardwood forests	Natural resources
19	Delta National Wildlife Refuge	Venice, Louisiana	Diversity of wildlife inhabit marshes, ponds, channels, and bayous which are also a winter sanctuary for migratory waterfowl	Natural resources
1	Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians	Philadelphia, Mississippi	Descendants of Choctaw Indians removed from their homelands during 1830s; today the tribe is one of five federally recognized tribes resident in the Delta	Delta Cultures, American Indian Heritage

Appendix C: Resource Descriptions

NO	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
2	Chucalissa Indian Village	Memphis, Tennessee	Ceremonial mound complex of Walls phase, late Mississippian period, on bluff overlooking the Mississippi River	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage
3	Arkansas Post National Memorial, Menard/Hodges (Osoutoy) Archeological Site	Gillette, Arkansas	Site of first European contact with Indians west of the Mississippi River	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage
4	Pinson Mounds State Archeological Site	Pinson, Tennessee	Native American ceremonial center contains second highest mound in the U.S; research station, interpretive center	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage
5	Winterville Mounds State Park and Museum	Washington County, Mississippi	Indian village site with mound architecture, visitor center, museum	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage
6	Marksville State Commemorative Area	Marksville, Louisiana	Large Indian mound and plaza village site	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage
7	Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana	Marksville, Louisiana	One of five federally recognized tribes resident in the Delta	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage
8	Coushatta Tribe	Elton, Louisiana	One of five federally recognized tribes resident in the Delta	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage
9	The Chitimacha Tribe	Charenton, Louisiana	One of five federally recognized tribes resident in the Delta	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage
10	Jena Band of Choctaw	Jena, Louisiana	One of five federally recognized tribes resident in the Delta	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage
11	Great River Road State Park	Rosedale, Mississippi	756 acres forest, lake and sandbars, camping facilities	The River; early European exploration; Native American heritage

APPENDIXES / STUDY PARTICIPANTS

NO	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
12	Arkansas Post National Memorial	Gillette, Arkansas	Site of first European contact with Indians west of the Mississippi River	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage; Spanish influence
13	Parkin Archeological State Park	Parkin, Arkansas	Mississippian period village site 1350-1550; Research station, museum, interpretive center	Delta Cultures; American Indian Heritage
14	French Colonial Historic District	Prairie DuRocher, Illinois	French Colonial settlement and fort; mountain man rendezvous location	Delta Cultures; French Culture, colonial settlement; American Indian/European trade network
15	Cape Girardeau River Heritage Museum	Cape Girardeau, Missouri	French Colonial Heritage	Delta Cultures; French Culture, colonial settlement
16	Historic Ste. Genevieve; Museum and Great River Road Interpretive Center	Ste. Genevieve, Missouri	French Colonial Heritage	Delta Cultures; French Culture, colonial settlement
17	Vieux Carre Historic District	New Orleans, Louisiana	French Quarter	Delta Cultures; French Culture, colonial settlement
18	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve	New Orleans, Louisiana	The Park consists of Barataria, Chalmette, the French Quarter, and the Acadian Units; the French Quarter unit interprets the ethnic population of the Delta	Delta Cultures
19	Acadiana Visitor Center	Opelousas, Louisiana	Acadian Culture	Delta Cultures; Acadian Culture
20	Natchitoches Historic District, Badin-Roque House	Natchitoches, Louisiana	Local historic district	Delta Cultures; Creole Culture
21	Kate Chopin House and Bayou Folk Museum	Cloutierville, Louisiana	Author's home; folk museum	Delta Cultures; Creole Culture; literature

NO	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
22	Mound Bayou	Mississippi	Town established by former slaves; example of successful black settlement towns in the Delta after the Civil War	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage
23	Delta Cultural Center	Helena, Arkansas	Railroad depot; Arkansas people and landscape exhibits and children's programs	Delta Cultures; Arkansas history
24	Floyd Brown-Fargo Agricultural School Museum	Fargo, Arkansas	Agricultural school founded by Floyd Brown to teach black families farming techniques	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage
25	Madison	Arkansas	Black settlement town active in historic preservation and economic revitalization through heritage tourism	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage
26	Cairo	Illinois	River town; site of Civil Rights movement 1967-1973	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage; Social and Political Influences
27	Beale Street Historic District	Memphis, Tennessee	Historic black entertainment district	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage
28	Delta Blues Museum	Clarksdale, Mississippi	Museum dedicated to the preservation of blues music and the heritage of blues performers	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage; Social and Political influences
29	China Grove Plantation	Natchez, Mississippi	Rare example of southern plantation owned by Black family that rose from slavery to successful business citizens after the Civil War	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage; Social and Political influences

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28	Delta Blues Museum	Clarksdale, Mississippi	Museum dedicated to the preservation of blues music and the heritage of blues performers	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage; Social and Political influences
29	China Grove Plantation	Natchez, Mississippi	Rare example of southern plantation owned by Black family that rose from slavery to successful business citizens after the Civil War	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage; Social and Political influences

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
38	Saxon Lutheran Memorial	Frohna, Missouri	Memorial to early German settlement	Delta Cultures; German Culture
39	Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience	Utica, Mississippi	Museum commemorates the Southern Jewish experience	Delta Cultures; Jewish Culture
40	Buchanan Street Historic District	Hickman, Kentucky	Mississippi River town; Mark Twain called Hickman the prettiest town on the River	Delta Cultures; River towns; the Delta and the National Economy
41	Arna Bontemps African-American Museum	Lafayette, Louisiana	Home of author, poet, and educator	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage; literature
42	Cane River Creole National Historic Park, Cane River National Heritage Area	Natchitoches, Louisiana	New unit of the NPS and new national heritage area	Delta Cultures; Creole Culture
43	Grand Village of the Natchez Indians	Natchez, Mississippi	Large mound site complex, home to Natchez Indians until they were defeated by the French in 1729	Mound Architecture, Settlement patterns, Native Americans
44	William Johnson House, Natchez National Historic Park	Natchez, Mississippi	Free black entrepreneur, his diary has been important for understanding the lives of "free people of color" in antebellum Natchez	Delta Cultures; African-American Heritage; Social and Political Influences
45	Wickliffe Mounds	Wickliffe, Kentucky	Indian mound complex	Delta Cultures; American Indian heritage
1	Shiloh National Military Park	Shiloh, Tennessee	Civil War site	Civil War site
2	Corinth	Mississippi	Civil War site	Social and Political Influences; the Civil War

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
3	Fort Pillow State Historic Area	Fulton, Tennessee	Civil War Site	Social and Political Influences; the Civil War; African-American heritage
4	Columbus-Belmont Battlefield State Park	Columbus, Kentucky	Civil War Site	Social and Political Influences; the Civil War; African-American heritage
5	Vicksburg National Military Park	Vicksburg, Mississippi	Civil War Site	Social and Political Influences; the Civil War; African-American heritage
6	Port Gibson	Mississippi	Civil War Site	Social and Political Influences; the Civil War; African-American heritage
7	Jackson	Mississippi	Civil War Site	Social and Political Influences; the Civil War; African-American heritage
8	Pea Ridge National Military Park	Pea Ridge, Arkansas	Civil War Site	Social and Political Influences; the Civil War; African-American heritage
9	National Civil Rights Museum	Memphis, Tennessee	Interprets the struggle for Civil Rights by African-Americans from slavery to the death of Martin Luther King	Social and Political Influences; Delta Cultures; African-American heritage
10	Farish Street Historic District	Jackson, Mississippi	Largest black community in Mississippi; historically segregated, associated with black professionals who achieved prominence at local, state, and national levels	Delta Cultures; African-American heritage; Social and Political Influences

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
11	Little Rock Central High School	Little Rock, Arkansas	Site of struggle for school desegregation in 1957-58	Social and Political Influences; African-American heritage
12	Southern Tenant Farmers Union	Marked Tree, Arkansas Memphis, Tennessee	Formed in the 1930s by a group of white and black sharecroppers; nation's first and largest interracial trade union	Social and Political Influences; African American heritage; labor struggles; agriculture
1	Consolidated Grain and Barge Company	Mound City, Illinois	One of the region's largest grain handling facilities	The Delta and the national economy
2	Stuttgart Agricultural Museum	Stuttgart, Arkansas	Reproduction of an 1880 homestead and an 1890 village	Delta Cultures; early settlement; the Delta and the national economy; Delta Agriculture
3	The Homeplace - 1850	Golden Pond, Kentucky	Working historical farm typical of the 19th Century	Delta Cultures; early settlement; the Delta and the national economy; Delta agriculture
4	Cottonlandia Museum	Greenwood, Mississippi	Traces the development of the region from 10,000 BC to the present; displays original farm implements, historic trade beads, homespun furnishings	Delta Cultures; early settlement; the Delta and the national economy; Delta agriculture
5	Fargo Agricultural School Museum	Fargo, Arkansas	Agricultural School founded by Floyd Brown to teach black families farming techniques	Delta Cultures; African-American heritage; Delta agriculture

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
6	LSU Rural Life Museum	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	Cultures and lifestyles of pre-industrial Louisiana relocated or recreated buildings, contains everyday rural life artifacts from prehistory to early 20th century	Delta Cultures; early settlement; Social and political influences
7	Louisiana Forestry Museum /Political Museum and Hall of Fame	Winnfield, Louisiana	Artifacts and record books of lumber companies that were located in the area	Delta and the National Economy; Timber industry
8	Cotton Row Walking Tour	Memphis, Tennessee	Center of cotton trade for the Central Mississippi valley since the 1850s, originally wholesale and retail businesses dealing with seed, feed, hardware; today the district remains a cotton marketing center and is accessible from the Great River Road.	Delta and the National Economy; Delta Agriculture
9	Arkansas Oil and Brine Museum	Smackover, Arkansas	Interprets 1920s oil boom in southern Arkansas	Delta and the National Economy; African-American heritage

CONCEPT 1: NATURAL RESOURCES: THE HEART OF THE DELTA

In addition to the following, state recreation areas are scattered throughout the Lower Mississippi Delta Region study area and offer residents and visitors myriad opportunities to view and enjoy the wonders of the region's natural resources.

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
1.	Horshoe Lake Natural Preserve	Alexander County, Illinois	National natural landmark; Contains diverse aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna and mature stands of bald cypress.	Natural Resources
2.	Little Grand Canyon Area	Jackson County, Illinois	National natural landmark; This area, an exceptional example of a large box canyon with vertical overhanging walls, contains a great diversity of ecosystems, including sandstone outcrops and overhangs, ravine slope forest, dry site oak-hickory forest, and hill prairies. The ravine is nationally known for the diversity of snakes that hibernate in the canyon.	Natural Resources
3.	Giant City Geologic Area	Union County, Illinois	National natural landmark; this area is an exceptional example of gravity sliding, consisting of massive joint-bounded sandstone blocks of the Pennsylvanian Age. Rich flora include xeric woods and oak/ hickory forest.	Natural Resources

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
4.	Henderson Sloughs	Northeast of Uniontown, Kentucky	National natural landmark; one of the largest wetlands remaining in the state and was once home for John James Audubon.	Natural Resources
5.	Big Oak Tree	Mississippi County, Missouri	National natural landmark; within Big Oak Tree State Park, is the only sizeable tract of essentially virgin wet-mesic bottomland habitat.	Natural Resources
6.	Pickle Springs	St. Genevieve County, Missouri	National natural landmark; a deep forested gorge containing one of the finest Pleistocene relict habitats in Missouri. It supports many relict herbaceous plant species, including one rare moss of tropical affinity and several plant species characteristic of the Appalachian mountains.	Natural Resources
7.	Reelfoot Lake	Lake County, Tennessee	National natural landmark; contains water lily glades, cypress swamps, sawgrass jungles, and scattered bodies of open water formed during the earthquake events of 1811-1812. The site contains domes, sunken lands, fissures, sinks, sand blows, and extensive landslides from that period.	Natural Resources
10.	Mark Twain National Forest	Arkansas	National Forest	Natural Resources
11.	Shawnee National Forest	Illinois	National Forest	Natural Resources
12.	Ozark National Forest	Arkansas	National Forest	Natural Resources

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
13.	Kisatchie National Forest	Louisiana	National Forest	Natural Resources
14.	Holly Springs National Forest	Mississippi	National Forest	Natural Resources
15.	Tombigbee National Forest	Mississippi	National Forest	Natural Resources
16.	Bienville National Forest	Mississippi	National Forest	Natural Resources
17.	DeSoto National Forest	Mississippi	National Forest	Natural Resources
18.	Homochitto National Forest	Mississippi	National Forest	Natural Resources
19.	Delta National Forest	Mississippi	National Forest	Natural Resources
20.	Gulf Islands National Seashore	Ocean Springs, Mississippi	NPS unit. A nature trail, picnic area, and campground are at Ocean Springs.	Natural Resources
21.	Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge	Mississippi	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
22.	Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge	Mississippi	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
23.	Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge	Mississippi	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
24.	Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge	Illinois	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
25.	Mingo Refuge	Missouri	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
26.	White River National Wildlife Refuge	Arkansas	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
27.	Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge	Arkansas	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
28.	Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge	Arkansas	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
29.	Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge	Arkansas	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
31.	Lake Ophelia National Refuge	Louisiana	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
32.	Cameron Prairie National Refuge	Louisiana	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
33.	Red Dirt National Refuge	Louisiana	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
34.	Upper Ouachita National Refuge	Louisiana	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
35.	Catahoula National Refuge	Louisiana	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
36.	Ouachita National Forest	Arkansas	National Forest	Natural Resources
37.	Delta National Wildlife Refuge	Louisiana	National Wildlife Refuge	Natural Resources
38.	Mississippi Petrified Forest	Flora, Mississippi	National Natural Landmark	Natural Resources
39.	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve (Barataria)	New Orleans, Louisiana	NPS unit. Barataria, south of New Orleans, has trails and canoe tours through bottomland hardwood forests, swamp, and marsh.	Natural Resources
40.	Arkansas Post National Memorial	Gillett, Arkansas	NPS unit. The park commemorates the first permanent French settlement in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Located on the Arkansas River, the park and surrounding area is home to a variety of wildlife.	Early Settlement patterns; Natural Resources
41.	Buffalo National River	Harrison, Arkansas	Offering both swift-running and placid stretches, the Buffalo is one of the few remaining unpolluted, free-flowing rivers in the lower 48 states. It courses through multicolored bluffs and past numerous springs along its 136-mile length.	Natural Resources

CONCEPT 2: TRANSFORMING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER: MANIPULATING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM TO FACILITATE NAVIGATION AND MANAGE FLOOD FLOWS

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
1	Mississippi River Museum (Mud Island)	Memphis, TN	Interprets life on and transformation of the Mississippi River	The River, Settlement Patterns, Transportation, Transformation of the River over time
2	Greenville Flood Museum (1927)	Greenville, MS	Interprets 1927 flood and impact on the region	The River, Human Transformation of the River, Social and Political Influences
3	Little River Drainage District of Southeast Missouri	From Cape Girardeau, MO southward to the Missouri-Arkansas state line	Bootheel region flood control and agriculture	The River, Transformation of the River, Settlement Patterns, Social and Political Influences
4	Floodways to divert excess flows: (1) Birds Point to New Madrid, Missouri floodway; (2) Morganza and West Atchafalaya floodways in Louisiana; (3) Bonnet Carre Spillway upstream of New Orleans	Missouri; LA	Flood control structures	The River, Transformation of the River, Settlement Patterns, Social and Political Influences
5-6	Three sites near the Mississippi River approximately 40-50 miles upstream of Baton Rouge, LA include: (1) Old River Control structures and lock and dam; (2) Sidney A Murray, Jr. Hydroelectric Station, component of Old River control complex; (3) Morganza Flood Control Structure	Louisiana	Flood control structures	The River, Transformation of the River, Social and Political Influences
7	Waterways Experiment Station Visitor Center	Vicksburg, MS	Principal research and testing laboratory of the Corps of Engineers	The River, Transformation of the River, Social and Political Influences, Research and Technology
8	Floodwalls at Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Paducah, Kentucky; Hickman, Kentucky; Helena, Arkansas	Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Paducah, Kentucky; Hickman, Kentucky; Helena, Arkansas	Flood control walls to protect the towns	The River, The Flood of 1927, Transformation of the River

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
9-10	Port Allen Lock and Plaquemine Lock	Port Allen, LA; Plaquemine, LA	Intracoastal Waterway improvements for defense and transportation	The River, Transformation of the River, Social and Political Influences
11	Giant City Geologic Area, Giant City State Park	Carbondale, IL	Examples of gravity sliding	Geophysical transformation of the river system
12	Lower Cache River Swamp	Carbondale, IL	Remnant of swampy flood plain forest that once covered a vast area at the junction of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers	Geophysical transformation of the river system
13	Pickle Springs Natural Area	Farmington, MO	Water, ice, rain, and wind have worn away the sandstone over millions of years creating fantastic rock formations and deep canyons	Geophysical transformation of the region
14	Big Oak Tree State Park	East Prairie, MO	Remnant of vast swamp that once covered the Missouri bootheel; tract of virgin wet-mesic bottomland hardwood forest	Natural and human transformation of the environment
15	Elephant Rocks State Park	Graniteville, MO	Eon-old granite rocks	Geophysical transformation of the region
16	Reelfoot Lake	Tiptonville, TN	Created by 1811-12 New Madrid earthquakes; encompasses cypress swamps, sawgrass jungles, and wetlands that are a haven for wildlife species	Geophysical transformation of the Mississippi; natural resources
17	Crowley's Ridge State Park	Paragould, AR	Narrow ridge of forested hills that rises above the Delta of northeastern Arkansas, created by wind carried soil over the past 12 centuries	Geophysical transformation of the region

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	STORIES OF THE DELTA
18	Harrell Prairie Hill, Bienville National Forest	Jackson, MS	Tall grass prairie that is one of the last remnants of Jackson Prairie	Human and natural transformation of the landscape
20	Little Grand Canyon Area	near Carbondale, IL	Diversity of ecosystems and seasonal haven for a variety of snakes that hibernate there	Natural Resources
21	Horseshoe Lake Natural Preserve	Cairo, IL	Stands of bald cypress, waterfowl migration corridor, habitats of diverse plant and animal species	Natural Resources
22	Henderson Sloughs	near Uniontown, KY	Large wetland and important habitat for waterfowl and wildlife	Natural Resources
23	Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge	Ripley, TN	Bottomland hardwood forest along the Mississippi flyway with a diversity of wildlife	Natural Resources
24	Big Lake Natural Area, Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Wildlife Management Area	Blytheville, AR	Stands of virgin timber and diversity of plant and animal species	Natural Resources
25	White River Sugarberry Natural Area, White River National Wildlife Refuge	Helena, AR	Three bottomland hardwood forest types and diversity of wildlife	Natural Resources
26	Delta National Forest, Green Ash, Overcup Oak, and Sweetgum Research Natural Areas	near Yazoo City, MS	Rare remnants of virgin bottomland hardwood forests	Natural Resources
27	Saint Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge	Natchez, MS	Hardwood forests and cypress swamps are haven for waterfowl and diversity of wildlife	Natural Resources
28	Delta National Wildlife Refuge	Venice, LA	Diversity of wildlife inhabit marshes, ponds, channels, and bayous which are also a winter sanctuary for migratory waterfowl	Natural Resources